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UIDAI TO START BIOMETRIC UPDATE OF KIDS VIA SCHOOLS

The UIDAI said it is working on a project to start biometric updates of children through schools in a phased manner

PROJECT DEPENDS ON CONSENT OF PARENTS

According to UIDAI, over 7 crore children have not updated their biometrics for Aadhaar, which is mandatory after attaining the age of 5 years. "The project will be done only after parental consent. We are at present testing the technology and it should be ready in 45-60 days," PTI quoted UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar as saying

WILL HELP STUDENTS AVAIL MANY BENEFITS

- Updating biometrics will ensure seamless usage of Aadhaar in availing services such as school admissions, registering for examinations, availing benefits of scholarships, DBT schemes, etc
- Under the project, the UIDAI will send biometric machines to each district which will be rotated from school to school

AADHAAR

CAN BE DEACTIVATED IF BIOMETRICS UPDATE IS NOT DONE BY AGE 7

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Bihar poll roll revision, Op Sindoor top House agenda

In all-party meet, govt agrees to discuss all issues raised by Oppn

From left: Minister of state Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and J P Nadda and MoS L Murugan chair the all-party meet in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID persistent demand by the Opposition for debates on multiple pressing issues in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament, the BJP-led government on Sunday signalled its willingness to engage in discussions—particularly on the success of Operation Sindoor—provided all opposition party leaders adhere to Parliamentary traditions.

The government dropped the hint during an all-party meeting, chaired by Union Minister J P Nadda, a day before the start of the Monsoon session. As many as 54 leaders of different parties and independent MPs attended the meet on Sunday.

The Opposition demanded a statement from the PM on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls currently underway in poll-bound Bihar. There was also a strong call from the Opposition for a clarification from the government on the alleged US mediation during Operation Sindoor resulting in a ceasefire.

According to sources, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju affirmed that the government would respond appropriately when discussions take place on US President Donald Trump's ceasefire assertions concerning the India-Pakistan conflict. Rijiju told reporters after the meeting: "There should be government-opposition coordination in running Parliament smoothly; not confrontation. The government is open to discussions within rules, conventions."

Many Opposition leaders also demanded a debate on the intelligence failure behind the Pahalgam attack. On these demands, Rijiju said the matters raised at the meeting would be taken up at the Business Advisory Committee of both houses, where a final decision would be taken.

After the meeting, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi told reporters that his party sought Prime Minister Modi's statement on Trump's claims, "lapses" which led to the Pahalgam attack and SIR in Bihar. "We hope that the PM will fulfil his moral duty," he said.

CPI(M)'s John Brittas and Supriya Sule of NCP-Sharad Pawar demanded that the PM respond on Pahalgam attack and Bihar's SIR. P10

100 MPs sign petition calling for Varma's impeachment

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

TAKING appears to be no further doubt regarding the move to impeach Justice Yashwant Varma. The Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said over 100 MPs have already signed a notice to bring a motion in Parliament for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, crossing the threshold of support required for tabling the impeachment exercise in the Lok Sabha.

"The signature (exercise) is underway and it has crossed 100 already," Rijiju told reporters after the all-party meeting, while adding that it is for the Business Advisory Committee, a group of parties which finalises the agenda in their respective House, to decide when the motion will be moved.

A motion for the removal of a judge has to be signed by not less than 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha. The motion is likely to be brought in the Lower House.

With Parliament's Monsoon Session beginning from Monday, the government has made it clear that it will bring the motion during this sitting of Parliament and has been receiving support from all parties.

Varma, who has been kept off judicial work, has protested his innocence and has moved the Supreme Court against the in-house committee's findings.

SIT to probe Dharmasthala mass grave allegations

SIT NOT TO HANDLE SOUJANYA CASE

Bengaluru: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said the 2012 Soujanya rape and murder case would not be included in the newly constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT). Parameshwara told reporters that they wanted a preliminary inquiry to be conducted based on the complaint in the Dharmasthala case. "We had stated that after this, if needed, we would hand over investigation to a higher agency | P4

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

THE state government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a comprehensive and impartial probe into a series of alleged crimes, including murders, sexual assaults, and disappearances of women and girls spanning over two decades in the Dharmasthala region of Dakshina Kannada district.

The decision comes on the heels of a chilling testimony by a former sanitation worker employed by the Dharmasthala temple administration, who told the police he was forced to burn and bury the bodies of hundreds of women, including schoolgirls, between 1998 and 2014. He claimed the victims were raped and murdered before being disposed of in secret.

The SIT will be led by Dr. Pranav Mohanty, DGP, Internal Security Division. The team also includes senior IPS officers MN Anucheth, Soumya Latha and Jitendra Kumar Dayama. The SIT will operate out of the Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police's office and will have access to all district resources. It has also been granted the authority to bring in additional personnel and officers as needed.

The team is tasked with investigating the FIR registered at Dharmasthala Police Station, but also any related cases of unnatural deaths, sexual assault, murders and disappearances reported or discovered during the course of the investigation across other police stations in Karnataka.

In a post on 'X', Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the move follows a request from the Karnataka State Commission for Women, which has taken a serious note of the allegations and demanded an unbiased probe. The Commission cited both the media reports and the court statement of the sanitation worker as deeply concerning and indicative of possible systemic criminal activity.

The SIT is required to provide regular updates to the Director General and Inspector General of Police, and submit a detailed investigation report to the government at the earliest, he said.

'Probe will put speculation to rest'

Meanwhile, Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala spokesperson K Parshwanath Jain while welcoming the SIT investigation said it would bring facts to light and put speculation to rest.

Calls for an SIT had been growing from multiple quarters, including the sanitation worker himself.

Former Supreme Court Judge V Gopala Gowda also had urged the government to arrest those responsible without delay and ensure a transparent investigation through the SIT.

SUNDAY SHOWERS

Though the weather was gloomy throughout the day, the burst of rain in the evening hours caught many people off-guard on their weekend outing near Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Tunnel Rd will spike jams, add 16 gridlocks as per DPR

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

BILLED as a solution to Bengaluru's traffic crisis, the estimated Rs 22,000-crore tunnel road between Hebbal and Silk Board will create more traffic snarls than it claims to fix.

The project, backed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar as a flagship intervention against the city's chronic congestion, would create "16 new gridlock" points at just eight entry and exit ramps — where U-turns and merging traffic are expected to worsen surface-level bottlenecks.

As per the illustrations in the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) accessed by *The New INDIAN Express*, the already congested areas such as Hebbal Flyover, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Maharani College Junction, Freedom Park surroundings, Wilson Garden junction near Ashoka Pillar and Hosur Road, where the proposed entry and exit points are planned, may see additional traffic woes.

The DPR (Volume-V) by Rodic Consultants Private Limited also makes no estimate of how much of the city's total traffic the tunnel will absorb. Further, it does not mention the average distance that tunnel users will be compelled to travel.

Based on BBMP's feasibility data, prepared by Altinok, a commuter using the Bengaluru tunnel will not just travel the tunnel's core length of 16.68 km, but will also cover an average additional distance of 2.23 km due to entry and exit ramps - 1.14 km at the entry and 1.09 km at the exit. P2

IN 4.5 YEARS

B'luru sees 3k fatal accidents, conviction 7%

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

IN the last four-and-a-half years, 3,536 fatal accidents were reported in the city, but only 7% of these cases resulted in conviction. Due to compensation settlements, the accused often go scot-free. On average, 11 accidents are reported daily in the city, including two fatal ones. The number of accidents increased by one-third from 2021 to 2024.

Experts said that the low conviction rate in fatal accidents is due to poor investigation, lack of eyewitnesses and out-of-court settlements.

According to the data from 2021 to July 2025, a total of 3,536 fatal accidents and 15,349 non-fatal accidents were reported, while 250 fatal and 9,811 non-fatal cases resulted in conviction. Meanwhile, 407 fatal and 199 non-fatal cases were disposed. In cases involving drunk driving and resulting in death, cases are registered under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the BNS and previously booked under Section 304 of the IPC.

A senior police officer said nearly 70–80% of fatal accident cases are compromised out of court between the accused and the victim's family, leading to low conviction rates and accused go free hand. Most accidents involve two-wheeler riders from economically weaker backgrounds. P5

Expert panel to assess recurring natural disasters

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

TAKING note of the frequent, high-intensity natural disasters in Himachal Pradesh, the Centre will form a team of experts from various disciplines to assess the situation in the hill state and suggest measures to deal with cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, and torrential rainfall.

Confirming the development, officials said on Sunday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed the formation of a multi-sectoral central team to visit Himachal Pradesh, which witnessed nearly 120 deaths and widespread damage to infrastructure, houses, and crops in the ongoing monsoon season.

In the past month alone, the state has witnessed 33 flash floods, 22 cloudbursts, and 19 landslides. Estimates put the financial loss to the state at over ₹1,200 crore. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, 146 roads are blocked, 28 power transformers out of service, and 58 water supply schemes affected.

The central team will comprise experts from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, a Geologist, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore.

"The home minister's direction came following a recent meeting in which he was apprised that Himachal Pradesh has witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and torrential rainfall, causing widespread loss of life, damage to infrastructure, livelihoods and environmental degradation," a senior official of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The Centre has already deputed an inter-ministerial team for on-the-spot, first-hand assessment of the damages in the state. The team is currently visiting the affected areas.

Cloudburst aftermath at Thunag of Seraj valley, in Mandi on Wednesday | ANI

EXPRESS READ

Veerashaiva-Lingayat seers unite after decades

Davanagere: For the first time in three decades, five Veerashaiva-Lingayat seers will come together for the 'Shrunga Sammelan' on Monday. The convention, which is expected to adopt a resolution on the caste census, will unite heads of Balehonnuru, Kedara, Ujjain, Rambhapuri and Srisailam peethas | P5

Odisha teen critical, airlifted to AIIMS Delhi

Bhubaneswar: The 15-year-old girl who was set afire by a group of miscreants in Odisha's Puri district was airlifted to the burn ICU in the Burns and Plastic Surgery block of AIIMS Delhi on Sunday. She sustained 75 per cent burns and her condition remains critical and she is on oxygen support, a medical bulletin said | P5

MANCHESTER TEST

Injury dampener for India; Reddy, Akash Deep latest concerns

TNIE in England
FIROZ MIRZA
@MANCHESTER

IT has been drizzling even on Sunday. Though sporadic, it rained too. The pitch in the middle of Old Trafford cricket ground is covered and is expected to be damp. The India team that reached here by train on Saturday evening had a closed door practice session but indoors. It was gloomy and overcast, ideal conditions for pacers. However, for India, inside the dressing room it is less than ideal even after a fun-time spent at Manchester United's training centre at Carrington.

If the suspense over Jasprit Bumrah's appearance in the fourth Test was not enough, India suffered a huge blow as Nitish Reddy is likely to be ruled out of the remaining two Tests on Sunday. This is after Akash Deep's availability came under scanner due to injury. Though the nature of Reddy's ailment is not known, Akash Deep apparently has groin issue. With the fast bowling all-rounder seems unlikely to take the field, India would be worried right now. He lent stability to the lower order and also chipped in with wickets. Reddy claimed three wickets (all at Lord's) in the two Tests he has played.

Ravindra Jadeja, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah and Shubman Gill at the Man United training centre | BCCI X

Arshdeep Singh, another pacer, has already sustained a cut in his bowling hand in Beckenham a few days ago and is unlikely to make his debut here. They do have Shardul Thakur and Prasidh Krishna yet the team management has flown in Haryana speedster Anshul Kamboj as a cover. Calling up a back-up bowler in the middle of a series usually don't paint a very rosy picture.

What makes it more intriguing is Manchester weather. The Met Department issued yellow warning for Sunday and Monday for heavy and perhaps thundery spells. There is forecast of light rain throughout the match as well. With the surface expected to be damp, India would be in a huddle to find their best possible combination before Wednesday. P13

JAGAN

MAY BE QUESTIONED BY SIT ON LIQUOR SCAM

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to be summoned for questioning in connection with the alleged multi-crore liquor scam during his regime, to trace the money trail | P5

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 21.07.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Dakhsinayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadasi 8.21 am • Nakshatra: Rohini 8.54 am • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 20°C | MAX 26°C

FORECAST: Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 06.02 am | Sunset 06.49 pm | Moonrise 02.12 am | Moonset 03.37 pm

BBMP SPLIT WILL LEAD TO SKEWED DEVELOPMENT

Experts say division did not take revenue, language and ethos into account

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

WHILE the Urban Development Department has issued the draft notification to split Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into five corporations, civic experts and former corporators opine that the division was "unnecessary" and has been done in a way that the city will see skewed development, and claim that the split didn't focus on language and culture. They note that Bengaluru East Corporation is carved out in a way that the area has the highest revenue collection, while other corporations are nowhere near. The area is predominantly populated by non-Kannadigas, who they believe will not understand local Kannada and culture.

Founder member of Bengaluru Praja Vedike NS Mukunda said, "The split has only laid the foundation for more problems. Instead of splitting the city into five corporations, the existing eight BBMP zones should have been doubled to 16, with a commissioner heading each zone. This would have made the administration easier."

Bengaluru East, being the highest revenue generator, will plan and implement multiple projects and schemes, and corporations like West will barely be able to run the show, Mukunda said.

Echoing Mukunda's views was former Leader of Opposition in BBMP and BJP leader NR Ramesh, who said, "East's revenue will be over Rs 2,000 crore, while Central's will be over Rs 250 crore, West will end up last with Rs 200 crore. North's revenue will be over Rs 1,400 crore and South's revenue around Rs 600 crore."

Ramesh predicted that if this split becomes a reality, Bengaluru will face Delhi's fate, where the national capital was trifurcated in 2012 and couldn't sustain due to multiple problems, and was again merged into one in 2022.

Both Mukunda and Ramesh say the corporations were carved out without considering 'soft issues' like local language, culture of the land, ethos, and said, "Look at Bengaluru East, the corporation is carved in a way that the area is dominated by non-Kannadigas, and locals become a minority. This, in the coming years, is sure to create a lot of clashes and problems." Mukunda recalled that the key factor on which the states were divided as per the State Reorganization Act 1956, was language and culture.

It's a bad idea to split a city into multiple corporations. It's over-centralisation in the garb of decentralisation. It is a lie this government is peddling to the public

Sandeep Anirudhan, civic activist

Mukunda said he will be officially registering his opposition, and added that pro-Kannada outfits will also do so before the deadline for registering opposition. Ramesh said he will challenge the BBMP split in court, and produce the Delhi model as support.

Civic activist Sandeep Anirudhan said, "It's a bad idea to split a city into multiple corporations. Especially under this unconstitutional scheme of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, where there is an unconstitutional state government-controlled Greater Bengaluru Authority which can overrule all of these (five) corporations. It is not devolution, but centralisation. It's over-centralisation in the garb of decentralisation. It is a lie this government is peddling to the public."

Both Anirudhan and Mukunda said the reason for Bengaluru's mismanagement doesn't lie in whether there is one or many corporations; it lies in the fact that the 74th constitutional amendment has not been followed for the past three decades, and there are multiple parastatals and departments catering to Bengaluru, which do not come under the corporation but directly report to the government.

"Every delimitation is fraught with faulty boundaries, because these are not done transparently with public participation. All boundaries are carved up by politicians in their backroom machinations, for electoral or other considerations, not with public welfare in mind," Anirudhan said.

Will bring Yettinahole water, Metro to Bengaluru North: DCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY CM and Bengaluru Development Minister said the government is committed to bringing Yettinahole water to Bengaluru North district by 2027. "The BJP did not bother supplying water to this region. It was the Congress that is getting water. We have also decided to prepare a detailed project report to bring the Metro to Hoskote, and we will ensure it is completed during our term," he said at an event organised to distribute e-Swathu documents, title deeds and distribution of benefits of various government schemes to beneficiaries in Hoskote, on the outskirts of the city, on Sunday.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar inaugurates a programme to distribute e-Swathu documents and title deeds in Hoskote on Sunday | EXPRESS

He said property documents were handed over to over 6,000 people on Sunday and that already over 1 lakh beneficiaries were given title deeds.

"We have also taken steps to regularise B-Khatas in Bengaluru. Our government is also giving out more than one crore of patta khatas to scheduled tribes. Hoskote is a large producer of milk, and our 'ksheera dhaare' programme is helping dairy farmers in a big way," he said.

Sharing his views on small traders and street vendors receiving GST notices, Shivakumar said small vendors are facing problems due to the GST introduced by the BJP government at the Centre.

He said, "Notices are being issued to all those who are doing business of over Rs 40 lakh, and notices are being issued to tender coconut sellers, vegetable vendors, etc. This is the achievement of the Union government. The traders don't have to worry, we will take necessary actions to protect their interests."

"We have made several appeals to the Centre for funds for the last two years, but none of the BJP MPs are speaking for the state. They are not concerned about the poor of the state. Karnataka gets only Rs 13 for every Rs 100 it gives to the Centre in the form of taxes."

At the programme, supporters of Shivakumar raised slogans that he will be the next chief minister of Karnataka

Garment workers seek repeal of labour codes

Bengaluru: Hundreds of women garment workers, primarily from the export sector, have demanded an end to wage discrimination, dignified working conditions and the repeal of "anti-worker" labour codes. At a state-level convention of garment workers, organised by the Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) and All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) here on Sunday, the workers highlighted long-standing wage discrimination in the industry. While the government's April minimum wage notification fixed Rs 25,000 for other scheduled industries, garment workers were excluded and continued to receive only Rs 12,800. Union leaders called this an institutional "gender-based discrimination". The convention passed resolutions demanding the inclusion of garment workers in the minimum wage notification among others. ENS

Bus lanes, Metro work need urgent push: Experts

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

AMID the political back-and-forth over which infrastructure project deserves priority, mobility experts have called on the state government to refocus on public transport, especially Metro expansion, bus services and pedestrian infrastructure to meaningfully address Bengaluru's traffic crisis.

Sanjeev Dyamannavar, mobility expert, highlighted the long delays in construction of underground Metro corridors to caution against overly ambitious tunnelling projects. He said, "Phase 2 of the Metro was sanctioned in 2014. Now we're in 2025 and the Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara stretch, mostly underground, still hasn't opened. You can imagine the challenges of tunnelling in Bengaluru."

He also stressed the unfulfilled promise of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail project. "One of its outcomes was meant to be the removal of all level crossings in the city to reduce congestion. That hasn't happened. Our elected representatives and administrators are not treating this project with urgency. There's no review, no pressure, no push."

Civic evangelist V Ravichandar joined Dyamannavar in flagging the poor state of road and drain infrastructure. "BBMP must take up proper maintenance of stormwater drains and ensure desilted mud is not left on the roadside. It just washes back in." He added that carpooling and cab sharing should be promoted to reduce the volume of vehicles on roads. "The most important projects we should prioritise are public transport and this includes Metro, suburban rail, bus, walkability and cycling infrastructure. Given that the biggest challenge for Bengaluru is outer ring road and that the Blue Line Metro is still under construction, the single biggest intervention that can yield quick results is revival of the bus priority lane on ORR, which was suspended due to Metro construction," said Srinivas Alavilli, fellow at World Resources Institute India.

With the city's vehicle population nearing 1.3 crore, experts said without immediate and sustained investment in public transport infrastructure, the city's mobility crisis will deepen. Bridging the gap between rapid urban expansion and accessible, efficient transport systems is no longer optional, it is essential for the city's sustainability and quality of life.

BOTTLENECKS AT TUNNEL ROAD ENTRY, EXIT POINTS LIKELY, SAYS URBAN EXPERT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This means the actual journey through the tunnel will be close to 18.91 km one way. On top of this, commuters may also have to travel extra distance on surface roads just to reach the ramp or after exiting it, depending on where their trip begins or ends. So the total distance and time for many users will be even longer than 19 km, making the tunnel far less efficient than it appears on paper. Pointing out that the project would create 16 gridlocks, Rajkumar Dugar, Founder of Citizens for Citizens (C4C), warned that the tunnel will end up increasing commute time. "Even those who don't use the tunnel will equally face more congestion. The ramps will force vehicles to merge at sharp angles, surface roads will get narrower, and new U-turns will choke existing junctions. Entry and exit chaos is guaranteed—like what we see at toll booths," he said. Urban Expert V Ravichandar said the tunnel entry and exit points may face bottlenecks due to overcrowding, significantly reducing the time savings commuters expect from the tunnel stretch.

TIME-OUT

After offering pooja in the holy month of Shravana, a group of women from Nepal spend the evening enjoying the famed Bengaluru weather in front of Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

ELCIA tech summit to be held on July 25

The Electronics City Industries Association (ELCIA) will host the ELCIA Tech Summit-2025 in Electronics City on Friday, bringing together industry leaders, technologists and startup founders among others to platform the growing convergence between India's technology and manufacturing sectors. Physical Artificial Intelligence and Robotics will form the core agenda of the summit this year. The 'Bangalore Paradigm' session will make a return. Several partners and startups will have an experience zone to showcase their latest innovations for hands-on trials by the public. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Axilor Ventures, and co-founder of Infosys, will inaugurate the summit. ENS

K'taka to set up skilling centre in Namibia

Bengaluru: State-run technical training institute, the Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Namibian government to set up India's first government-led skilling centre in Africa. GTTC will help train young people in Namibia in skills like toolmaking, CNC operations, robotics and mechatronics. Namibia was chosen for the project because of its stable government, English-speaking population and strong industries in areas like mining, energy, farming and tourism. It is rich in resources like uranium, diamonds and rare earth minerals. The Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) said the project will be a model for future India-Africa collaborations. The agreement was inked by GTTC MD Dr YK Dinesh Kumar and AIEF General Secretary Anil Shinde, in the presence of Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil. ENS

Live phone-in for UGCET/UGNEET counselling today

Bengaluru: A live phone-in programme on UGCET/UGNEET-25 counselling will be conducted on Doordarshan's Chandana channel from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm on Monday, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) said. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna, Administrative Officer Islavuddin Gadyal, Deputy Director of Medical Education Dr Srinivas and KEA officer Srinath will answer public queries. Students can call 080-23532599 or 080-23532699 to clear their doubts. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21ST July : Monday is sacred to the Moon so all lunar activities are favoured. These include caring for family members, dealing with domestic duties and recognising that everything in our world is in a state of constant change. Plans may need to be made, unmade, and made again!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The fact that the Moon, ruling your emotions, is so very important today, suggests that not only is this a day to bring all existing plans to fruition, but also that you should do your best to force the pace. Other people need to remember who is top!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's not always a good idea to reveal all. In fact, you do seem to have something to be secretive about. All things considered, I'd say that so sudden and so curious is the current change in direction, that it may be the end of the week before you discover what is really going on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may throw yourself into social engagements with one hundred and one percent enthusiasm. It's a wonderful day for differences of opinion, so if you have anything to get off your chest, do so today. The one qualification is that you must stick to the facts.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The time will come when you have to consider a professional or other worldly ambition in a new light. The only way to learn is to make mistakes, so don't worry about whether something is going to work out as planned. Just do it! You'll get it right next time.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Today's energetic lunar alignments are splendid for all Leos everywhere. Focus on all adventurous schemes, throw caution to the wind and let yourself go. Hopefully, partners should take care of the practical ramifications. If they don't, then you can always sort them out in a few days' time.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Fortunate planetary pressures are set to produce increased prosperity and popularity for poor old Virgo! Help might come from where it is least expected, perhaps in the form of hard cash, hopefully within the next three days. If nothing happens now, then you might have to wait for another month!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The Sun extends its bountiful influence over you, indicating that a significant season is continuing. You may feel as if a family member is giving you a sideways push, temporarily knocking you off your perch. However, the lesson may be a salutary and much needed one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The theme for the day is hard work. In every area of life, even if you're pursuing a romantic goal, you should push yourself to the limit. There could be satisfactory developments for those of you contemplating major domestic upheavals, mainly because you're more determined than you were in the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
As from now, you should begin to allocate a higher priority to your creative powers and instincts. Today's forceful lunar alignment suggests that this is a positive time to lay your feelings on the line. Just make sure that you've got the facts straight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
A number of planetary cycles reach critical points today. Ambitious Capricorns are about to hit an assertive professional phase but, before then, all Goats must make the necessary adjustments at home. You can't afford to overlook any detail, no matter how small.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Today's harmonious planetary picture offers you the chance to conduct a minor revolution in almost whatever area of life you choose. Financially, keep a tight rein on family spending, and a close watch on younger relations. You need to know where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Many Pisceans labour under the illusion that they are thoroughly unmaterialistic and superior to such things as financial considerations. Just how wrong this is, will be proved over the next three days! There'll be times when you'll have a shrewd financial brain on those sensitive shoulders.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

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5	3	6	7	9	8	4	2	1
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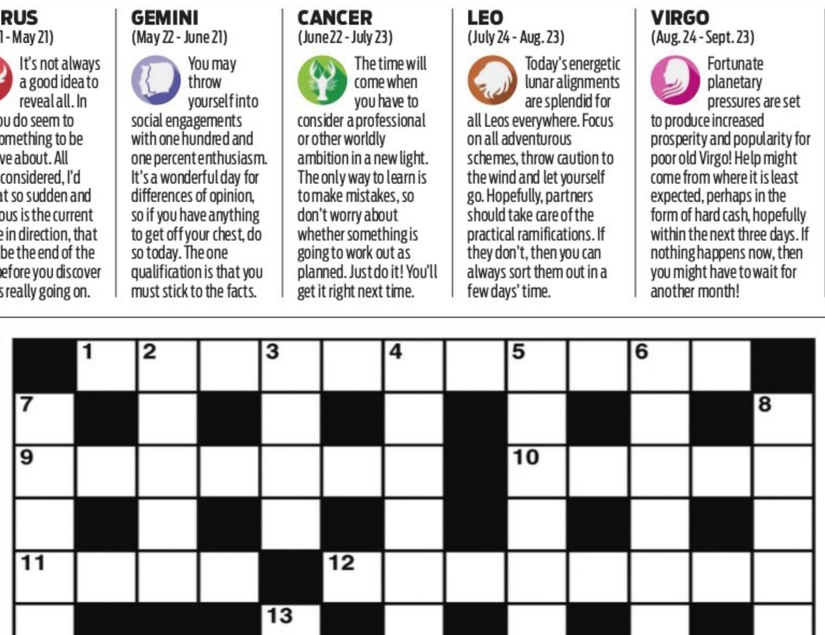
7	9	8	2	4	1	3	6	5
8	7	3	4	5	2	6	1	9
6	2	5	1	8	9	7	3	4
4	1	9	6	7	3	5	8	2
1	8	7	9	6	5	2	4	3
3	5	2	8	1	4	9	7	6
9	6	4	3	2	7	1	5	8

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Important instruction to one's financial attorney? (11)
9 Checking growth by pinching (7)
10 Tina returns with a new name (5)
11 Ring New York Times? It will be expensive (4)
12 Good looks? (8)
14 Unruly priest in a bar (6)
16 Noble sounding but without issue (6)
18 Inaccurate team sink badly (8)
19 Second rank or front? (4)
22 South African by birth? (5)
23 Oil change needed after journey in Libya (7)
24 Old timers (11)

DOWN

2 Suggest I am to practise a trade apparently (5)
3 An elevating Kipling poem of unaffected simplicity (4)
4 Soldier captured by enemies - old diehards (6)
5 A sitting target for disgruntled shareholders? (8)
6 Not one of two or three in disorder (7)
7 Sanction of a kind men do resent (11)
8 Capricious desire to overtake someone (7,4)
13 Twists up, moved in front, all spread out (8)
15 Oddly rotates stone bearing an ancient decree (7)
17 It's true about not having reduction in charge (6)
20 River cut by river (5)
21 Strikes may result when this is put out (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Friend, 4 Spyglass, 9 Rotate, 10 Profound, 12 Ewer, 13 Stock, 14 Veil, 17 Trade returns, 20 Brilliantine, 23 Oath, 24 Acute, 25 Tabu, 28 Stay away, 29 Region, 30 Lathered, 31 Stoned.

Down: 1 Forfeits, 2 In the bag, 3 Note, 5 Parachutists, 6 Gift, 7 Abused, 8 Saddle, 11 Steeplechase, 15 Pearl, 16 Inane, 18 Citation, 19 Returned, 21 Tonsil, 22 Strait, 26 Game, 27 Meet.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CEENF

SYBSO

GHNITK

LWTAEL

Here's some water for the moat.
We need more sand!
I'm going to join the kids.
What a perfect day to end the holiday weekend.
THEY WERE HAVING FUN SWIMMING AND BUILDING A SANDCASTLE. EVERYTHING WAS ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PLAID AUDIO SNAPPY MAYHEM
Answer: It's easy for a fictional character to be stubborn because their — MIND IS MADE UP

The North Division police conducted raids on the houses of more than 200 rowdy-sheeters on Sunday, but did not recover any suspicious items. Four to five special teams in each police jurisdiction under the division were involved in the searches. Speaking to TNIE, DC of Police (North) Babasab Nemagoud said the team collected information on their current activities and issued warnings to those who have been skipping court proceedings. Nemagoud said it was part of a routine check

UPA LOKAYUKTAS TAP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FOR GRAFT CLUES

Officials say they will provide 'instant justice', including suspension

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

IN what could be called 'instant justice', both the Upa Lokayuktas— Justice K N Phaneendra and Justice B Veerappa- are seriously going through the audio and video recordings involving bribery by the State Government officials doing rounds on social media so that action can be initiated against such officials as and when they come to their notice.

In one such instance, village administrative officer Ambali Pooja, presently working in Kannamangala Revenue Circle of Doddaballapura taluk, has been suspended on Saturday, hours after the Upa Lokayuktas held a meeting with Bengaluru Rural Deputy Commissioner A B Basavaraju at their office.

Despite the video, in which Pooja allegedly demanded Rs 60,000 for issuing khata of the land of a woman, went viral when the former was working in Byrasandra Revenue Circle in Nelamangala, no action was taken. Hence, both Upa Lokayuktas enquired with the DC and apprised him as to why no action was taken and if not now, it is inevitable for them to take up a suo moto case against all the authorities. Later, the DC issued orders suspending Pooja.

In another clip depicting an official demanding bribe in Kolar was doing rounds, following with the Kolar DC has been directed to check the veracity of that and take action. With this 'instant justice', the Upa Lokayuktas are not only keeping pace with the change, but also aim to save precious time and man power of holding inquiry years together, despite presence of visible and strong evidence.

When contacted, Justice Veerappa said when there is strong evidence to act against erring officials for their misconduct, it is not fair on the part of the competent authorities to be mute spectators instead of taking disciplinary action. Therefore, it was inevitable for them to appraise the DC about inaction against corrupt official.

Lokayukta court frowns on delay in investigation

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

EXPRESSING serious displeasure over the inordinate delay in concluding investigations by Lokayukta police, the Special Court for Lokayukta cases noted that taking 5 to 10 years to conclude investigation, or FIRs registered in 2016 still pending before court, will not only affect larger public interest but also cause injustice to real victims.

The court also referred to its correspondence with ADGP of Karnataka Lokayukta on four occasions -- August 24, 2023, March 7, 2025, March 10, 2025, and July 14, 2025 -- pointing out

that 60 days under the CrPC is prescribed for investigation of cases registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

"Of course, for getting expert opinion from the forensic lab, chemical examiners and prosecution sanction orders may cause a reasonable delay of six months or even a maximum of one year. But taking 5 years, 7 years or 10 years not only affects public interest but also causes injustice to the real victims, rather than ensuring true justice. No purpose would be served through this kind of investigation, but to invest manpower, valuable time and public money," said Judge KM Radhakrishna, in an order on Saturday.

The judge said the impact of the delay in concluding investigation would be abatement of proceedings due to death of the accused, cases ending in acquittal due to destruction of evidence with the passage of time, death of material witnesses, investigation officers (IOs) or their retirement from service, and the possibility of witnesses forgetting about the incident, he said.

"Sometimes, the approach of IOs and their subordinates in coming to court without proper preparation and adducing evidence, contrary to facts so negligibly to step out of the doors of the court as soon as possible. Therefore, seriousness needs to be bestowed by police officers towards these lapses and delays for effective investigation...," the judge said, pointing out serious lapses.

Questioning the Lokayukta police for not chargesheeting Special Land Acquisition Officer Manorama and chargesheeting First Division Assistant Ramesh, who was working under her, arrested while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 in 2021 for release of over Rs 17 lakh compensation to complainant Balasubramanyam for acquisition of land for the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway in a Kolar village, the judge said the court has come across similar approach of IOs in many cases, wherein they give the go-by to the main accused despite evidence, and chargesheet persons who assist the main accused in demanding and accepting illegal gratification.

"Unfortunately, the IO is suppressing the involvement of the SLAO despite evidence available, to expose her prima-facie involvement in the alleged offence. But he has dropped her from the charge-sheet and given protection without assigning reasons," the judge observed.

RAIN DANCE

A woman enjoys the sudden downpour with outstretched arms in Bengaluru, on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Indian airports lack advanced CAT III landing system

ANUBHAB ROY @BENGALURU

WHILE global aviation standards have progressed by leaps and bounds, those in India still lag, reflected by its lack of a Category III Instrument Landing System (ILS) ecosystem.

In the absence of this global standard that assists one of the most critical phases of flying (landing), Indian aviation remains open to inquiry. ILS is a mechanism that can land aircraft safely with the help of guiding systems that add another layer of safety and precision over visual approach. It is divided into three categories, and each category is further divided into three sub-categories (A, B, C). Each level-up allows a flight crew to land safely in worse visibility, with Category III allowing safe landing with up to zero visibility.

Many Indian pilots are not trained for Category III approaches, not only because of a lack of push from carriers, but also due to acute lack of Category III ILS on ground. As per a report published by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on February 8, 2024, "There are total six airports in India where Runway is certified for CAT III (Low visibility) operations at Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Amritsar, Bengaluru and Kolkata (sic)." The country has 487 operational airports in all.

A spokesperson from the KIA, requesting anonymity, said, "The airports usually do not maintain data about reasons for delay. It only says bad weather, and gives no details about the flight or the pilot."

Capt Anil Rao, General Secretary, Airlines Pilots Association of India, stressed, "Many airports (like Pune and Bagdogra) are actually military airfields, where civil operations are performed under restrictions. Most of these airfields operate under visual flying conditions. The Airports Authority of India should intervene (to implement Category II-III ILS for low-visibility operations)." Capt CS Randhawa, president, Federation of Indian Pilots, said, "In India, most airports are Category I. The ground equipment is not compliant in many cases."

He said, "First, the Airports Authority of India and private players like Adani need to ensure that the basic on-ground equipment is present at airports. Under the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme, there are a lot of airfields without ILS at all. Most have only Visual Flight Rules (VFR) with no ground aids. You need 5 km of visibility to land."

'DO NOT PANIC'

There is no such thing as digital arrest, says cops

ANUSH K @Bengaluru

As technology evolves, so do crimes. As cybercrime is on the rise in Karnataka, recent cases show people are losing their lives to what is being called "digital arrest".

In the most recent case, a 30-year-old BESCOM contract employee died by suicide after falling prey to such a scam. In March, an elderly couple in Belagavi also ended their lives in similar circumstances. According to police data, 147 cases of digital arrest have been reported in Karnataka up to May this year, compared to 445 cases in 2023.

Fraudsters impersonate officials from CBI, Income Tax, or Customs, etc and contact victims through phone or video calls. They claim the victim has committed a crime such as tax evasion, receiving illegal parcels, or financial fraud. Victims are then threatened with arrest unless they pay money immediately.

However, police clarified that "digital arrest" is not a recognised legal term. "There is no such thing as a digital arrest in policing," a senior officer said. "Police arrest a person physically, inform them of the charges, allow them to contact family, and produce them before a magistrate within 24 hours."

The fraudsters exploit fear. They send fake IDs, badges, FIRs, and arrest warrants via WhatsApp. In some cases, they even create fake police station backgrounds during video calls to appear legitimate. Victims are often coerced into remaining under 'house arrest' while the fraudsters extort money through digital payments.

"If someone calls or messages you claiming to be a government official, don't panic. Hang up and directly contact the concerned agency to verify," the officer said. The police have urged the public to call the Cybercrime Helpline 1930 for cyber fraud-related issues or Namma 112 to report threats or suspicious activity.

THINGS NOT TO DO

- Avoid answering calls from non- +91 numbers
- Do not accept video calls from unknown contacts
- Don't share OTPs, bank details, Aadhaar, or UPI PINs
- Don't disclose address, passwords, or personal documents
- No real police officer will threaten arrest via phone or video call

WOMAN DUPED OF ₹14.1 LAKH IN ONLINE SCAM

Udupi: A woman based in Shirva village fell victim to a digital arrest after being tricked by conmen posing as police officers. The victim lost Rs 14.10 lakh. The victim - Mary, received a call on July 9. The caller, speaking in Hindi, claimed that a complaint was filed from her mobile number, alleging that a billionaire named Naresh Goyal from Bih-ar was involved in finan-cial misconduct and that money was credited to her account. Later, another person showed her a video featuring a police team and assuming that they were genuine, she shared bank details and lost the money. ENS

Man held for murder bid

ENS @Bengaluru

THE HAL police have arrested a 26-year-old youth for harassing a married woman on social media and pressuring her to marry him. When the woman's relatives called him for a discussion, the accused, who was riding pillion on the woman's brother-in-law's bike, allegedly slit his throat.

The accused, Selva Karthik, is an employee in a private two-wheeler manufacturing company in Hosur. He is a native of Tamil Nadu. The police said that Karthik had befriended a married woman from Kaggadasapura and began chatting with her. He later fell in love with her, but the woman stopped communication. In June, Karthik visited her house and threatened her with dire consequences if she did not speak to him. Her husband and other family members convinced him and sent him back. He allegedly threatened her over the phone, warning that he would kill her father and a relative if she didn't leave her husband.

On July 17, the woman's father, Shekar V, brother-in-law Prashanth, and son-in-law Shiva went to meet Karthik near Malleshpalya to talk with him. Prashanth was riding a scooter with Karthik as a pillion. While they were on the way, Karthik allegedly slit Prashanth's neck from behind. Shekar and Shiva, who were on another scooter, stopped to rescue Prashanth, who was bleeding profusely. Karthik allegedly tried to attack them as well, but as they escaped, the police said. The police added that Prashanth was rushed to the hospital. HAL police have registered a case.

Karandlaje flags illegal immigrants in Hebbal

Bengaluru: Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje has written a letter to City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh on Saturday, urging immediate action against illegal immigrants settled in Amanikere Village, located in the Hebbal constituency and regarding environmental violations. In her letter, she mentioned over 3,000-5,000 people suspected to be from Bangladesh residing with forged documents, who were brought into the city by contractors posing them as residents of West Bengal. They have encroached on public land and electricity. She alleged that the area has become a hotspot for garbage burning and pollution, posing severe health and environmental risks to Hebbal residents. She urged the commissioner to launch a special drive, coordinated with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), to identify, apprehend, and deport illegal immigrants. She also called for legal action against the contractors and agents responsible for bringing them into the city. Additionally, she asked the BBMP to step in to halt garbage burning in the area and clear illegal encroachments. ENS

AS PG MENACE GROWS CITIZENS URGE BBMP TO SHUT THEM DOWN

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

UNREGULATED paying guest (PG) accommodations continue to haunt Bengalureans. Though the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had laid down detailed guidelines for the PGs to follow, there seem to be more flouters than those who fall in line. On one side, BBMP is closing down unauthorised PGs, on the other side, new ones are mushrooming, complaining citizens, who are demanding a regular crackdown.

In its latest drive against unauthorised PGs, nine of them were sealed in the city during the enforcement drive at Mahadevpura.

Banumathi, a resident at Kumaraswamy Layout, said that every nook and corner of her area is flooded with PGs. "The majority of the PGs are nothing but flats and old buildings that are added with the dormitory beds, a washing machine and a family to cook and maintain the accommodations. They do not have any valid permission to operate PGs. Due to the illegal operation of the PGs, residents are getting disturbed. Parking, smoking, drinking, blockage of manholes, the problems by the PGs are umpteen", she complained.

Praja Vedike, NS Mukunda, said, "Bengaluru is brimming with people from other districts and states. They all need accommodation, and those who come to Bengaluru, especially women, prefer PGs as they are affordable and safe. While there is demand for PGs, there are hardly any who take all the necessary permissions and infrastructure needed to operate them."

"There is no doubt, a rapidly developing city like Bengaluru needs PGs. Those who set up the PGs should ensure that they have all the necessary clearances and licences to operate them, which is not followed. On the other hand, BBMP, can't frame guidelines and expect people to follow it. It should enforce it strictly. Until this is done, the problem of unauthorised PG menace would continue to haunt Bengalureans," Mukunda said.

The BBMP has issued detailed guidelines for the PG accommodations. Providing a minimum of 70 square feet per occupant, getting Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licence to operate a kitchen inside the PG, installing CCTV cameras at all the entry and exit points with a 30-day back up, deploying at least one security guard to man the PG, fire safety permissions, etc are some of the major things listed in the PG guidelines issued by BBMP. Mahadevpura zonal commissioner KN Ramesh told TNIE that during the recent enforcement drive, they sealed nine PG accommodations that were operating illegally in the zone.

"No fines were levied. BBMP officials just sealed them as part of the drive against illegal establishments. Actions were taken to ensure public safety and compliance with regulations", he said.

The majority of the PGs are nothing but flats and old buildings that are added with the dormitory beds, a washing machine and a family to cook and maintain the accommodations — Banumathi, a resident at Kumaraswamy Layout

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II AT BANGALORE

4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001

O.A. No.469/2024

Between : **CANARA BANK,** having its Head Office at No. 112, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 and One of its branch office at Jayanagar Shopping Complex Branch, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011 represented by its Agent and Chief Manager.

...Applicant

AND

1. M/s. A Manoj Enterprises, Represented by its Propietor Mr. R. Arul Manickam, No. 37/4, Upadyapalya Layout, Udaya Palya Post, Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore - 560 082.

2. Mr. R. Arul Manickam S/o. Rathinam Pillai, No. P1, Sri Sai Residency, No. 65/137, 2nd Main Road, 7th Cross, Chikkalasandra, Sarvabhomanagar, Bangalore - 560 061.

3. Smt. Shanthi A W/o.Arul Manickam R., No. P1, Sri Sai Residency, No. 65/137, 2nd Main Road, 7th Cross, Chikkalasandra, Sarvabhomanagar, Bangalore - 560 061.

....Defendants

SUMMONS /NOTICE ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.66,40,824/-** (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Forty Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four Only)

2. The above mentioned Defendant are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **20.08.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **04.06.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to Issue Summons

ONGC
CAUVERY ASSET, KARAIKAL

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS FOR HIRING GDU, DPD SERVICE

M/s ONGC India, Karaikal, invites eligible and experienced vendors to participate in the pre-qualification process for providing service for Gas **Dehydration, Dew Point Depression, and Allied Facilities at the CY-ONN-2002/2 NELP Block, Madanam (Near Chidambaram), Tamil Nadu.**

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Providing modular-based Gas Dehydration Unit (GDU) and Dew Point Depression (DPD) services for processing a gas quantity of 1,20,000 SCMD
- Installation, operation and maintenance of GDU, DPD and associated facilities
- Duration: **3 years**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Experience in Gas dehydration, dew point depression services
- Proven track record of successful project execution of similar scope

Interested vendors are kindly requested to contact ONGC, Karaikal via email to obtain the PQC document details and submit their pre-qualification documents in accordance with the outlined criteria.

Submission of request deadline: Seven days from the date of publication.

For inquiries or detailed information, please contact:

ONGC Karaikal
Phone: 82912 81560, 83005 53348
Email: murugan_a5@ongc.co.in, prasad_poluru@ongc.co.in

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The Centre has neglected the Mekedatu reservoir project, Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda alleged on Sunday. He added that the BJP came to power at the Centre, promising enough grants for irrigation projects. However, it has failed to keep up its promises, he said

FOOD FOR STRAYS: LAW, COMPASSION AND DUTY OF LOCALS

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS Dialogues

IN India, or Bharat, the dog is more than an animal. We often forget this at our own peril. Yudhishthira refused to enter heaven without the dog who accompanied him on his final journey, despite Lord Indra's insistence. Before you cast the first stone at a stray dog, remember that if not the Constitution, compassion must make you lower your arms. BBMP's recent proposal to feed stray dogs, at a cost of Rs 3 crore per annum, has drawn much criticism. Bengaluru-based animal rights activist **Arun Prasad**, in an interaction with *TNIE*, says the government is responsible for the safety and welfare of every living being under it, including animals. He cautions that dogs may not bite, but animal lovers surely will, if BBMP fails to implement its feeding initiative strictly and effectively. Excerpts:

BBMP's recent initiative to feed stray dogs has drawn a lot of backlash. Where do you stand on this?
We have to understand the 'Doctrine of Parens Patriae', which holds the government as the father figure of society, and responsible for the safety and welfare of every living being under it, including animals. In 2016, the government implemented Solid Waste Management (SWM) rules. Rule 15B necessitates door-to-door collection of waste, both wet and dry, preventing people from leaving food out for neighbourhood animals. In 2023, the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, were amended to Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. Under Rule 20-1, the feeding of neighbourhood animals became the responsibility of localities, the local Resident Welfare Association, and local authority. It is our duty. Rule 20-2 talks about conflict resolution in case of disputes arising out of feeding local strays. In such cases, a committee should be formed with the local authorities, including police, to identify feeding spots to place food. Since most strays are territorial, they should be fed within their territories. Compassion is a fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Who is the custodian of stray animals?
Animals fall under two categories — wildlife and non-wildlife. Wild animals fall under the domain of the Forest department, and are protected by the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Domestic animals fall under non-scheduled species, whose custodians are the local authorities. The Animal Welfare Board of India clearly directs local authorities to be custodians. Under the Prevention of Cruelty Act (PCA) and doctrine of Parens Patriae, if local animals stand in harm's way due to hunger or any other cause, local authorities will be held liable. During the pandemic, a landmark decision was taken by the government in which I was instrumental. We raised the issue of animals dying due to lack of resources, which could compound the disaster by spreading germs further. Under the disaster management fund, a special grant was kept aside for feeding animals; Rs 30 lakh was sanctioned by BBMP.

What will stray dogs be fed?
Chicken and rice. Dogs are primarily carnivores. Chicken parts (except the intestine), like the legs, head, neck, chicken skin, liver, gizzard, will be cooked with rice and turmeric, and fed. Compared to other meat options, chicken is the cheapest, which makes it the most feasible.

Given the track record of local bodies like BBMP, do you think the animals will get chicken, or will the project be mismanaged?
BBMP, during the two pandemic lockdowns, undertook feeding of stray animals successfully. I had the money released. We ensured hygiene of the cooked food, and BBMP distributed it. So this is not the first time BBMP is taking up feeding of strays. This is, however, the first time in India that a municipal organisation has undertaken an initiative for strays under a constitutional obligation (compassion). Animal activists will keep watch, ensuring strays are fed without any compromise in content and quality.

There is a safety concern about the rising number of stray dogs, and difficulty for pedestrians and two-wheeler riders. How do we control that?
India is a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which clearly deems the killing of dogs an effective solution to control stray population. Earlier, BBMP would euthanise dogs and dump the bodies in Devanahalli. This was extremely inhumane. ABC Rules, 2023, ensure the agenda remains animal birth control, not animal elimination. It is implemented well in Bengaluru, but is a big zero in other states.

What is the stray dog population in Bengaluru now? What was it like a decade ago?
As per the census, the stray dog population in Bengaluru is within 3lakh now, and was around 2.4lakh a decade ago. Growth has been healthy due to activists. Bengaluru has a very scientific monitoring system.

What about aggressive species like Pitbulls and Rottweilers? Should there be any regulation?
The Animal Welfare Board of India came out with a list of aggressive species in 2024. It was contested by the Karnataka High Court, and withdrawn in Karnataka. No animals are inherently aggressive. It depends on how we treat them.

This brings us to the Wildlife Protection Act (Amendment) 2023, particularly Chapter 5B, which incorporates the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the global agreement on endangered species trade. While native species like the Bengal Tiger can't be kept as pets in India, under CITES, one can legally import exotic species with permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, but only for personal pet use.

Wouldn't Huskies also fall under the same concern, as they need sub-zero temperatures?
Yes, Huskies are biologically adapted to cold. While humans can adapt using clothing, animals can't. Bringing them to hot cities like Chennai is cruel. The Animal Welfare Board should have considered this, but there's no clear legislation. We're urging the government to restrict species imports to those which adapt to Indian climate (20–40°C range).

The government has allocated Rs 3 crore to feed stray dogs. Is that sufficient?
It is a meagre amount. Just Rs 3 crore to feed stray dogs, while MLAs are given Rs 10 crore each as discretionary funds. Close to Rs 420 crore was sanctioned across Karnataka for miscellaneous civic issues, but animal welfare gets a fraction, despite being a constitutional duty.

Facilities exist for humans in distress, like night shelters, but animals remain voiceless. The public, media, and authorities must ensure proper use of the allocated funds. Misuse or redirection of this money effectively robs voiceless animals of their basic rights.

So, where does the accountability lie in ensuring dogs are actually cared for?
Every department has core and discretionary functions. Ward committees, though not very powerful, meet every Wednesday and allow public participation. People can file RTIs and demand implementation. With pressure from BBMP, animal activists, feeders and the media, there's no escape; they have to act. I'm confident that implementation will happen because there's a very strong, vocal community of animal lovers and feeders who will not stay quiet. Even if the dogs don't bite, the animal lovers will.

You mentioned that provisional functions receive meagre amounts, and most of it seems focused on dogs. What about stray cats?
Rule 20, Sub-Rule 1 of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules states that feeding of community animals is allowed and 'community animals' doesn't just mean dogs. It includes cats and any animals born or living in a particular locality. This has also been upheld by the Bombay High Court. So the rules apply to all animals, not just dogs.

Are other species like birds, bats, squirrels and urban wildlife being taken care of? Who is responsible for them?
In the past, cities like Bengaluru had many fruit-bearing trees like guava, gooseberry, black jamun, etc. These were food sources for fruit-eating birds, bats and squirrels. Now, most of these trees are gone. So, where will these animals find food?

When concerns were raised with Forest department officials, they responded that wildlife would manage on their own. But that's not practical. If there's no food around, they won't be able to survive. Just like humans, animals also need accessible sources of food. That's why we are asking the Forest department to ensure that fruit-bearing trees are planted in urban areas again. Ultimately, compassion is a constitutional value. It is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that no animal, whether stray or wild, suffers from cruelty or hunger. This is not just about care; it is a legal and moral obligation.

In places like Hubballi, where pigs are still seen within city limits, who is responsible for taking care of them?
Earlier, people were allowed to rear pigs within city limits. However, amendments made to the BBMP Act later prohibited pig-rearing in urban areas. This affected communities that traditionally depended on pig-rearing for their livelihood. This also led to legal intervention, and the High Court ruled that authorities cannot forcibly seize or kill pigs. Instead, the government must provide alternative land outside the city, such as a designated pig farm, where these communities can continue their practice, including provisions for feeding. Today, pig-rearing is confined to farms outside city limits. These farms often rely on leftover food waste from hotels to feed the animals.

Can you tell us about dog adoption?
The Animal Welfare Board of India has issued guidelines for the legal adoption of community animals, including street dogs. To adopt a street dog legally, you must submit a request to the local authority. This process includes a house check to ensure you're capable of caring for the animal. The system was put in place to prevent misuse. Once approved, your Aadhaar and address details will be recorded, and periodic checks (every six months) will be done to ensure the animal's well-being.

How is awareness being created about dog adoption?
We are promoting the adoption of Indian dogs over foreign breeds due to health, adaptability, and ethical concerns. Desi dogs are native to the Indian climate, which makes them naturally more immune to diseases. They're also low-maintenance, need less grooming, eat regular food, and are generally more resilient.

What are the legal and ethical concerns around dog breeding in India?
The Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules, 2017, aim to regulate breeding practices, but violations still occur. Illegal practices include the use of rape stands for forced mating, artificial insemination, and inbreeding — all of which lead to health issues and deformities in dogs. Cosmetic surgeries like ear cropping and tail docking (done for appearance) are also illegal. Only ear notching is allowed — a small V-shaped mark done under anaesthesia to show a dog has been sterilised. This helps officials identify sterilised street dogs.

'Cong's remarks on Modi only strengthen his bond with people'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka slammed AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge over his remarks on PM Narendra Modi, wherein Kharge had stated that "Modi barks everyday on television".

Expressing his displeasure, Ashoka on 'X' stated that the language used by Kharge is shameful and beneath the dignity of public life. "But should we be surprised" he questioned, adding that from "Maut ka Saudagar" to "Zehreela Saamp" to now this — personal abuse has become Congress' only political currency. Further, Ashoka said each time, they (Congress) attack Modi, it only strengthens the bond between him and the people.

"India is roaring under the PM, and that is the real problem with the Congress. They can't digest the fact that a self-made leader is taking India to new heights, without their dynasty" he stated.

Ashoka also criticised Congress leaders fighting on the streets. The meeting held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was not a government programme, but an event organised to sideline Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, said Ashoka. He added that the meeting was held to teach Shivakumar a lesson and humiliate him. Shivakumar has now become a second-tier leader; it was a ritual to finish off Shivakumar, he mentioned.

Meanwhile, Ashoka also said that the BJP doesn't need to topple the government, which will collapse due to Congress' internal conflicts. AICC general secretary Karnataka incharge Randeep Singh Surjewala came to the state and listened to the grievances of MLAs. Their disputes are now out in the open, he added.

CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar arrive to offer bagina at the Kabini reservoir in HD Kote taluk, Mysuru district, on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

AP's attempts to woo industrialists away from K'taka won't work: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reassured investors of the state government's commitment to provide land to establish industries in Karnataka. Clarifying that no company will leave Karnataka, he reiterated that they have never said that land will not be provided to investors.

When asked about the Andhra Pradesh Government swiftly stepping in to attract investors, following the Karnataka Government's decision to drop the land acquisition bid for the Devanahalli Aerospace and Defence Park, Siddaramaiah said AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh will not succeed in their attempts to take away industrialists looking for opportunities in Karnataka.

When asked about the BJP's campaign against the Rs 18,000-crore tunnel road in Bengaluru, he replied: "The BJP is against development."

All's good with DKS: Siddu

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also clarified that there are no differences between him and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. He charged that the BJP wants to divide them and take political advantage of the ensuing situation, and added that it will never happen.

When asked about the BJP accusing him of insulting Shivakumar at the Sadhana Samavesha in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said the question of insulting the latter does not arise since the DCM was not there when he was addressing the gathering. "It is a practice that we welcome those who are present at the event," he added.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar said he had left the Samavesha venue to rush to New Delhi on an appointment with an advocate. He reiterated that there are no differences, adding that he had informed Siddaramaiah and Mysuru District in-charge minister HC Mahdevappa before his departure from the venue.

Soujanya case not included in SIT probe: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday clarified that the Soujanya rape and murder case would not be included in the newly constituted SIT ordered by the State government to probe alleged rape and murder cases in Dharmasthala.

The minister said the SIT's terms of reference do not include the Soujanaya case. In 2012, 17-year-old Soujanya, a PU student, was abducted, raped and murdered.

Parameshwara told reporters that they wanted a preliminary inquiry to be conducted based on the complaint in the Dharmasthala case. "We had stated that after this, if needed, we would hand over investigation to a higher agency. The CM, myself and Director General & Inspector General of Police decided to constitute the SIT. Pronab Mohanty is a senior officer and will lead the SIT which will report to DG&IGP Saleem from time to time. The final report will also be submitted to him," he stated.

Asked if the State government was under pressure to constitute the SIT, the minister said, "This was not done because of any pressure. We need to see the pros and cons of the case and also its status. We want a preliminary inquiry first. There is no question of hiding. We have taken time for a preliminary inquiry," he said. They will wait for the final report to take any further decision, he added.

Parameshwara said they did not not think of the Dharmasthala case as a small complaint. "Usually, at the police station level, preliminary investigation begins. When it grows, the probe will take a different turn," he said.

Reddy, Sriramulu bury hatchet, say they're inseparable friends

KOPPAL: BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Sunday visited Gangavathi, where he presided over a special meeting organised by the Koppal and Ballari distict units of the party. Interestingly, Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy and former minister B Sriramulu shared the same dais, with Vijayendra raising both their hands in unison, marking a reunion of sorts between the once 'friends-turned-foes'. The moment brought cheer among the supporters of Reddy and Sriramulu, and both the leaders gave out a message that they were indeed inseparable friends. Vijayendra advised local BJP leaders and workers to organise more activities in Koppal and Ballari, and help build the party over a firm foundation. BJP workers in Koppal and Vijayanagara expressed their happiness over the meeting, saying that they will get involved and participate actively in building the party. **ENS**

BJP state president BY Vijayendra shares a light moment with party colleagues, Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy and former minister B Sriramulu at a special party meeting in Koppal on Sunday | EXPRESS

9-MONTH STAND-OFF BAFFLES K'TAKA

Congress yet to make a move over 4 MLC seats

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

IN a bewildering act of political self-sabotage, the Congress has left four critical MLC nominations in cold storage for a staggering nine months — a delay that could cost the Grand Old Party dearly in the race to control Karnataka's Legislative Council, say political observers.

According to them, this isn't just a bureaucratic lag, but a baffling blunder. With the numbers tantalisingly close to tipping in its favour, the Congress has inexplicably stalled, letting a golden opportunity slip away. Even more astonishing is the case of one vacant seat — the former berth of then BJP leader CP Yogeshwara — which had only over 1.5 years remaining, and thanks to Congress' slumber, eight months have already been squandered.

What's left now is a measly 11 months, but sources reveal that the party plans to renominate the same candidate for a full six-year term, once this short window closes.

The other three seats have been vacant from the end of October, which means that they have been vacant for nine months now.

Now, with KPCC president DK Shivakumar visiting New Delhi on Sunday, party insiders claim that the names have finally been cleared: They are the same that were cleared earlier, but there was some stalling — Arathi Krishna (NRI forum), Ramesh Babu (chairman, PCC Media Cell) DG Sagar (Dalit activist), and Dinesh Amin Mattu (CM's media team). But even with these picks ready, time is racing away.

Meanwhile, to unseat Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti and Vice-Chairman MK Pranesh (both from the BJP), the Congress needs to issue a 15-day notice, and that window is slamming shut fast, because the next legislative session begins in August.

If they fail to act now, they will be stuck waiting until December, because this session will be held only for 10 days, effectively losing a full year to claim the power they so vocally covet.

Two individuals from Karnataka died after a car carrying six people plunged into the Tungabhadra LLC canal in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The group of six had visited the Sri Raghavendra Swamy temple in Mantralayam and were returning to Hubballi

COST OF KICKBACKS

Jagan may be quizzed in liquor scam case probe

Probe agency summons former AP CM, looks to trace conclusion of money trail

PHANINDRA PAPASANI @ Vijayawada

FORMER Andhra Pradesh chief minister and YSRCP president **YS Jagan Mohan** Reddy is likely to be summoned by the probing agency for questioning in connection with the alleged multi-crore liquor scam during his regime, to trace the conclusion of the money trail.

Evidently, the preliminary chargesheet submitted to the ACB court in Vijayawada by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday too has corroborated the alleged role of Jagan, suspecting him as the recipient or final beneficiary in the money trail.

In the 305-page document submitted to the ACB court, Jagan's name was mentioned thrice and SIT officials substantiated through several witnesses that he (Jagan) used to receive an average amount of ₹50-60 crore every month in the form of commissions from the owners of liquor distilleries.

According to the chargesheet, YSRCP leaders called for a meeting with owners of the distilleries after the formation of YSRC government in 2019.

The meeting was held by the Sajjala Sridhar Reddy (A6) at Hotel Park Hyatt in Hyderabad, wherein the owners of the distilleries were told to cooperate with the orchestrated sale of liquor by raising planned indents and issuing manual OFS to select suppliers in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

During the meeting, the owners were warned that no orders will be issued to them if they do not accede to their proposals. Under the threat of loss of business, several distilleries agreed to pay kickbacks at a commission rate of 12 per cent. Soon, the percentage of kickbacks was increased to 20 per cent of the base price in the order for supply (OFS).

"The collected amounts were eventually handed over to Kesireddy Rajasekhar Reddy (A1). Rajasekhar Reddy would then pass the money to Vijay Sai Reddy (A5), Mithun Reddy (A4), Balaji Govindappa (A33) who would transfer it to former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. On an average, ₹50-60 crore was collected every month. This is further corroborated by the statements of the listed witness," the chargesheet states.

Pecuniary gains

Party leaders and several others, including government employees, were accused of obtaining pecuniary gains and collected commissions from the liquor distilleries, and 12 persons, including the Rajampet MP PV Mithun Reddy, were arrested by SIT officers in the past four months.

The investigation agency procured all the evidence pertaining to their role in formulation of liquor policy and its implementation causing a huge loss of over ₹3,200 crore to the state exchequer.

The collected amounts were eventually handed over to Kesireddy Rajasekhar Reddy (A1). On an average, ₹50-60 crore was collected every month. — Chargesheet

Puri girl set on fire airlifted to AIIMS Delhi

ASISH MEHTA @ Bhubaneswar

A day after a 15-year-old girl was allegedly set afire by a group of miscreants in Balanga area of Puri district, she was airlifted on Sunday from AIIMS-Bhubaneswar to AIIMS-New Delhi for better treatment.

"The patient with 75 per cent burns was airlifted from Bhubaneswar and was admitted to the hospital at 4.20 pm. She is currently admitted to the burn ICU in the Burns and Plastic Surgery block. Her condition is critical. She is on oxygen support, and a team of doctors is closely monitoring her condition," the medical cell of AIIMS-New Delhi said in the evening.

Bhubaneswar police had created a green corridor for the smooth transit of the victim in an advanced life-support ambulance from AIIMS here to Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA).

Earlier in the day, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Dr Ashutosh Biswas told mediapersons that the girl was shifted to AIIMS-New Delhi for better treatment. Some of the treating doctors accompanied her to New Delhi along with her family members.

The victim, a school dropout, in her statement said that she was on the way to give some books to her friend when three youths abducted her and used a chloroform-like substance to make her unconscious and then set her on fire. She mentioned three different names of her friend but no such girl with any of those names could be found in the village, said police sources.

Those privy to the investigation said police are also looking into the minutest possibility of it being a case of suicide too.

Pinarayi meets Guv as varsity tensions ease

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

AMID controversies surrounding the higher education sector, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited Governor Rajendra Arlekar at the Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. They reportedly discussed various issues related to universities in the state. Arlekar welcomed Pinarayi by draping a shawl, with the Raj Bhavan sharing the pictures on 'X'.

"Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan called on Hon'ble Governor Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Raj Bhavan, Kerala, today, upon his return from the foreign tour," the post said.

Raj Bhavan sources said the friendly meeting lasted an hour -- from 3.30pm to 4.35pm. "Only the governor and the chief minister were present. They would have discussed various issues. It's a kind of a thaw in the governor-state government relations," the source said.

His visit follows steps initiated by Higher Education Minister R Bindu to resolve the vice-chancellor-syndicate tiff at the Kerala University in the aftermath of the Bharat Mata image controversy.

The SFI too has put an abrupt end to its weeks-long protests against placing the Bharat Mata image at a function the governor attended in the university senate hall in June.

ORANGE BLOOM

Farmers work in a marigold farm land near HD Kote taluk, in Mysuru district on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

Tax notices: Small traders to shut shops on July 25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SMALL traders and vendors across Karnataka will stage a symbolic protest on July 25 by shutting down their businesses in protest against the "unjust tax demands" from the Commercial Taxes Department. A massive protest is also scheduled at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, where lakhs of small business owners and their families are expected to gather from across the state.

The Karnataka State Workers' Council, which is spearheading the protest, says small businesses have received backdated tax notices ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, dating back to 2021. These notices, they alleged, were issued without any prior information or explanation. The protestors include owners of bakeries, vegetable and fruit shops, flower stalls, tea sellers and meat shops. Ahead of the protest, on July 23 and 24, traders will wear black armbands while conducting businesses. They also plan to stop the sale of milk, tea, coffee and milk-based products on these two days.

The businesses have appealed to all traders to voluntarily join the bandh and participate in the July 25 rally.

Korameenu shortage hits Nellore's iconic fish curry

D SURENDRA KUMAR @ Nellore

RESTAURANTS across Nellore are witnessing a sharp decline in the availability of genuine Chepala Pulusu, the famed fish curry synonymous with the region's culinary identity.

Once celebrated nationwide, this signature dish-traditionally crafted from sweet-water Korameenu (Red Snapper) sourced from the Pennar river delta-is rapidly losing traction among food establishments and patrons alike.

Traditionally, Korameenu was naturally found in various rural water bodies, particularly during dry seasons when canals and ponds dried up, exposing the muddy bottoms where these fish reside.

However, in recent years, the changing climatic conditions have severely impacted their natural breeding grounds, raising fears of the species becoming extinct.

Currently, this fish is rarely found in villages, and urban hotels are serving fish curry made with farm-bred Korameenu, which lacks the natural flavor of its wild counterpart. According to experts, fish raised in specially prepared tanks taste different from those found in natural settings.

Adding to the crisis is the increasing presence of invasive species like catfish and jellyfish varieties, which feed on ingenious fish, including Korameenu. The growing pollution in canals and agricultural water sources is further endangering their survival. The skyrocketing price of Korameenu-now retailing between Rs.350 and Rs.400 per kilogram-has made it largely unaffordable for the average diner.

"In most hotels, the recipe is nowhere near the taste we expect. The flavour has gradually decreased, and we don't know why. This sentiment is echoed in the growing trend of families opting to prepare Chepala pulusu at home, ensuring authenticity and value,' said K Ramesh, a resident of Nellore city.

Adding to the cultural impact is the diminishing experience for visitors. Nellore, long lauded for exporting its fish delicacies and food specialists to other states-including Delhi-now risks losing its reputation as travellers frequently return home without tasting the iconic dish.

Special OTET cancelled over paper leak allegations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Cuttack

THE Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET)-2025 scheduled to be held on Sunday for in-service primary and upper primary school teachers across the state was cancelled by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) over allegations of question paper leak.

The announcement came Late on Saturday night just a few hours before commencement of the exam leaving over 75,000 candidates in a quandary. "The Special OTET-2025 (Paper-1 and Paper 2) which was scheduled to be held on 20.7.2025 is here by postponed until further notification," read the notice issued by BSE.

The Board, however, did not cite the reason that prompted it to take the decision of postponing the test. Sources, however, said the decision was taken after images of handwritten question papers, both in English and Odia, began circulating on social media from Saturday evening. This despite adoption of watermark and QR code, digital lock and GPS-tracking system by the Board for the first time in OTET examination to enhance security and prevent question paper leak. The handwritten question papers were allegedly identical to the printed ones which might have prompted the BSE to postpone the exam, sources added.

The incident has sparked discontentment among candidates who were scheduled to appear the test. Sources, however, attributed the incident to gross irresponsibility on part of the BSE authorities.

Veerashaiva-Lingayat seers unite after 30 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

THE five seers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community are coming together for the first time in three decades for the two-day 'Shrunga Sammelan' starting from Monday in the city.

The convention will bring together heads of Balehonnuru, Kedara, Ujjain, Rambhapuri and Srisailam peethas.

In a press release, head of Balehonnuru Peetha, Dr Veerasomeshwara Jagadguru said the meeting will discuss various issues, including action to be initiated by the community during the caste census.

The programme will be inaugurated on Monday at 11 am. Union Minister V Somanna, Ministers SS Mallikarjun, Eshwara Khandre, MB Patil, former chief ministers BS Yediyurappa, Jagadish Shettar, Basavaraj Bommai, president of Akhil Bharath Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha and former minister Dr Shamanur Shivashankarappa and vice-president of Akhil Bharath Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha Athani Veeranna will attend the convention.

The convention is expected to adopt a resolution on the caste census. Former MLA HS Shivashankar said the convention is a good augury for the development of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community. A large number of devotees from Davanagere district and other parts of the state are expected to attend the convention. Apart from various cultural events, a mega procession will be held in the city on Tuesday.

An archived photo of all the five peetadhipathis of Veerashiva lingayat community at Davanagere during their previous visit

EXPRESS READ

Man stabs wife to death in TN govt hospital

Karur: In a horrific incident, a 28-year-old man stabbed his wife to death early on Sunday while she was undergoing treatment at a Kulithalai government district headquarters hospital in Karur for injuries sustained during his assault on her at their home during an altercation. The accused R Vishruth (28), allegedly stabbed his wife V Shruthi (27), in the neck three times while she was asleep. Before hospital staff and attendants of other patients could stop him, he had fled the spot. Despite doctors' efforts, Shruthi died on the spot. An argument had broke out between the couple on Saturday night, and Vishruth allegedly assaulted Shruthi, leaving her injured. Neighbours rushed her to the hospital late at night, police said.

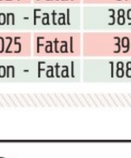
EPS delivers a stern message to BJP on coalition govt issue

Chennai: Even as a section of the BJP leaders continues to insist that a coalition government will be formed after the 2026 Assembly elections, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami may have put an end to speculations, delivering what analysts say is a stern message to the BJP that the AIADMK will independently form the government. Speaking at an AIADMK meeting in Thiruthuraipoondi (Tiruvarur district) on Saturday night, Palaniswami said, "They (the DMK) are saying that in the AIADMK-BJP alliance, we will share power if we form the government. Mr Stalin, let me make this clear: We are not gullible. The AIADMK will win the polls with a majority and form the government on its own." Palaniswami said the BJP joined the AIADMK-led alliance to unseat the DMK government, which is "corrupt and anti-people". "Unlike you, we are not desperate to bring our heir to power. It is the will of the people that matters, and we will fulfil that," he added. Quick on damage control, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran called up Palaniswami and discussed the remarks.

AICTE for research on Basavanna's teachings

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru/ Delhi

IN an endorsement of 12th-century social reformer Basaveshwara's relevance in today's world, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued a directive to vice-chancellors of technical universities, deemed universities, and AICTE-approved institutions to actively promote and research the philosophy, governance models, and social reform agenda of the saint and revolutionary thinker.



In a communication from the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, the AICTE urged the academic world to highlight Basaveshwara's teachings for modern India. At a time when India is seeking new models of inclusive development, social justice and decentralized governance, poet-saint Basaveshwara's radical ideas are being revived and researched by the country's top educational bodies.

The AICTE letter calls for workshops, seminars and research projects on Basaveshwara's philosophy, exploration of his 'Lok Sansad' concept of participative local governance, studies on his fight for social equity, gender equality, and eradication of caste-based discrimination and superstitions, and 'Vachanas', which are poetic verses filled with wisdom and rebellion.

They spoke out against injustice, patriarchy, blind rituals, and social inequality. Basava himself stood for meritocracy, dignity of labour, rationality, and an egalitarian society.

The Indian government now wants engineering students, faculty and research scholars to draw inspiration from this reformer to craft cutting-edge research on governance and social transformation. As India deals with growing social divides and challenges in governance, it is turning to its roots for solutions, and the message is clear: Basaveshwara is not just history, but he has his place in the future.

'FAMILIES OFTEN RESORT TO OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENTS'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FAMILIES often avoid long legal battles and opt for settlements resulting in acquittals, he said.

"After investigation, the cases proceed simultaneously in civil and criminal courts. The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) handles civil cases, where insurance companies compensate the victim's family, sometimes up to several crores based on the victim's age and profession. These cases are typically settled within six months to a year," he explained. While due to delay in criminal trials, the witnesses including victims' families, often turn hostile. "Over time, families lose the motivation to pursue the case and agree to out-of-court settlements", he said adding since accidents are usually not intentional, the accused are often given station bail, the officer added.

Advocate Rajalakshmi Angalagi noted that there are two types of fatal mishaps: negligent (carelessness or failure to take precautions) and reckless (willful disregard for safety like overspeeding or signal jumping). "Police often fail to clearly classify the nature of the act. The reckless cases should be prioritized for stricter punishment," she said.

She added that fatal cases are difficult to prove due to a lack of eyewitnesses. "Most onlookers turn hostile or avoid giving statements. However, with the new law allowing CCTV footage as admissible evidence, conviction rates may improve. In drunk driving cases, FSL reports are also essential," she said.

Onlookers turn hostile or avoid giving statements. With new law allowing CCTV footage conviction rates may improve

Rajalakshmi Angalagi, Advocate

RECKLESS ON ROAD

Year	Type	Reported	Convicted	Disposed
2021	Fatal	651	72	163
Non -	Fatal	2488	2010	80
2022	Fatal	735	66	131
Non -	Fatal	3065	2324	56
2023	Fatal	877	63	92
Non -	Fatal	4014	2847	43
2024	Fatal	877	45	21
Non -	Fatal	3896	2332	20
2025 (till June)	Fatal	396	4	0
Non -	Fatal	1886	298	0

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
IBC O&M Division, Rampur(PA). Tq:Sindagi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Ph.No:08488-224328, Email: kbjnleerampur@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/IBC/O&M/PB-2/2025-26/603 Dated:16.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC O&M.Division Rampur (PA), Tq: Sindgi ,Dist Vijayapur invites the percentage tenders through e-procurement from **Class-IV and above Contractor Registered in KPWD and registered in the Assistant Labour Commissioner Belgaum/Gulbarga Division(for KBJNL Irrigation Works).** 17 Nos of AME of Canals for Rs. 154.94 lakhs. Which can be obtained through website. (https://kppp.karnaaka.gov.in) and can be submitted through electronic tender box.

The contractor can have access to e-tender document from **22-07-2025 to 30-07-2025 Upto 5.30 pm**. Submission of completed e-tendering documents from **22-07-2025 to 30-07-2025 Upto 5.30 pm**

Cover-I (Financial Bid) will be opened electronically in the office of the Executive Engineer,KBJNL IBC O&M Division Rampur(P.A) on **01-08-2025 at 11.00 AM**. In respect of bidders whose e-EMD has been confirmed on the e-Tendering platform. Further information can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC O&M Division Rampur (P.A) Tq-Sindagi Dist-Vijayapur during the office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, IBC O&M Division,
Rampur(PA)

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/194/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY

(PORT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

INDIA'S LARGEST CONTAINER PORT | DEVELOPED INDIA MISSION

Short e-Tender notice

Tender No.: PPD/DGM-I/Road/T-33/2025 dated 18.07.2025

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority invites percentage rate basis tenders **"ON-LINE"** from **21.07.2025 to 18.08.2025** in two covers, from the experienced contractors fulfilling the "Minimum Qualifying Criteria" stipulated in this tender for the work of **"Providing & fixing of Bi-absorbent noise barriers at BMCTPL road near Jaskhar village at JN Port."**. The estimated cost of the work is **Rs.4,68,34,095.00 (Excluding GST).** Completed e-tender shall be submitted by **"ON-LINE"** process on or before **18.08.2025 upto 1500 hrs.** The detailed Notice Inviting Tender including tender document is available on the JNPA website "www.jnport.gov.in or https://eprocure.gov.in."

Chief General Manager
(Port Planning & Development Department)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: EEE/PD/KPL/25-26/992-994 Date: 16.07.2025.

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has established a new 110/11KV Sub-Station at Mustur village in Karatagi Taluk of Koppal District and also constructed 110kV line required for this.

The said line is passing through the Mustur village limits of Karatagi Taluk and Hebbal village of Gangavathi Taluk. The said Transmission line will be energized **on or after 25.07.2025.** Therefore, public are requested not to climb towers of this line, tie animals to the towers or not to throw green sticks or metal pieces, wires on the line as this type of activities will endanger the properties and lives of both animals and human beings. Public are hereby informed that if any accident or damage occurs due to violation of above said instructions, the person responsible for the same will be punished as per rules which may please be noted.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Projects Division, KPTCL, 110kV Sub-Station Premises,
Hosapete Road, Koppal – 583231.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to your kind notice that my client, RAMACHANDRA BHAT K S/o Gopalakrishna Bhat K R/at No.70, Omkar Subbaramachetty Road, Basavanagudi Near Nuttakallappa Circle, Bengaluru-560004 on 05/06/2025 I was shifting my home from Basavanagudi to No.70, Omkar Subbaramachetty Road, Basavanagudi Near Nuttakallappa Circle, Bengaluru-560004, I have misplaced the page No.14 of the Sale Deed Dated:12/08/2004 registered as doc No.ANK-1-09179/2004-05 Stored in CD No.ANKD36 before the Sub-Registrar Anekal Bengaluru and I have tried to find the lost documents which is not been traced

If any person finds the aforesaid documents kindly return it to my client's address or to his counsel Shashi Kumar M Advocate No.144, 6th Cross, KEB Layout, Sanjayanagar, Bengaluru-560094.

BHANDARI ASSOCIATES
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Sanjayanagar, Bengaluru-94
Mobile No. 8123535043

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/773/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
1.	Work of Providing and Laying of 600mm dia DWC SN-8 class pipe line from 5th cross Bhuvaneshwarinagar to along SWD drain upto(V100) Kempapura Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bangalore. **(5th Call).**	Rs. 207.09 Lakhs Rs. 3.11 Lakhs
Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **04.08.2025 upto 11:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **05.08.2025 at 11:30Hrs**.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/775/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
2.	Improvement work of installing of dredging pump, Multi raked coarse bar screen, installation of Macerators and Solar panels and implementation of CMMS software at 20 MLD Doddabele UWTP under JHA Funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP)V.V-1 Sub-division. **(3rd Call).**	Rs. 316.93 Lakhs Rs. 4.75 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/781/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
3.	Work of Supply of Helicoidal Screw conveyor and Helicoidal Inbuilt washing compactor, Computer Maintenance Management System & Modem for Data Connectivity KSPCB Server at Hebbal 100 MLD coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.1) Sub-division. **(3rd Call).**	Rs. 314.48 Lakhs Rs. 5.57 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/785/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
4.	Work of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Dredge Pumps, CMMS, 15 Kwp* 5 Set Solar Roof Top Power Plant,UV Disinfection at Nagasandra Phase-I coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.2) Sub-division.**(3rd Call).**	Rs. 163.36 Lakhs Rs. 2.4 Lakhs

Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on:**30.07.2025 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **31.07.2025 at 17:00Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer(WWM-West).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/1947/2025-26

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
Mr. Udaya Ravi N Loan A/c No. 410500004446 Physical Possession Date : 17/07/2025	28/11/2022	Rs. 16,11,048.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy.No.20/8 measuring 04 Acre 04 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to Non-Agriculture residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Ramanagar District vide conversion order No.RGK/ALN (R0cr/33/2015-16, dated 14-09-2015,) situated at Kallugopahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District and bounded on the:- East by: Sy.No.20/9 Myciti Property / Road. West by:Sy.No.20/7 Myciti Property / Road. North by : Sy.No.20/14. South by : Site No.21. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : (HEREIN TO BE CONVEYED TO THE PURCHASER) :All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Site No.42, Katha No.2824/20/8/42, carved out of Converted land bearing Sy.No.20/8 measuring 04 Acre 04 Guntas, situated at ABH SHARANYA, Kallugopahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District presently comes under the limits of city municipal council limits, ad-measuring East to West 9.14 Mtrs & North to South 15.24 Mtrs, totally measuring 139.2963 Sq.Mtrs and bounded on the:- East by:30 Feet Wide Road West by:Site No. 51.North by: Site No. 41. South by: Site No. 43.
Mr. Rasheed Ameenur Ms. Ayesha Siddiqa (GPA Holder) Loan A/c No. 412000002964 Symbolic Possession Date : 17/07/2025	26/12/2024	Rs. 93,96,835.86	SCHEDULE PROPERTY ; ITEM No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.426/715/B/540/2/31/2 (Old Assessment No.540, khata No.31 (old khaneshwari No.38), situated at Kote kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West: 23.6+34.4/2= 29mts. North to South: 19+15.06/2 = 17.3mts. Total Area : 493.87 Square Meters And bounded as follows : East by : Road, leading to Vrushabhavathi river. West by : Road. North by : Road South by : Property belongs to Vendor. ITEM No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.826/715/A/540/1/31/1 (Old Assessment No.540, khata No.31 (old khaneshwari No.39), situated at Kote Kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West : 13.97+14.71/2 = 14.34mts. North to South: 31.22+7.95+9.74+43.36/2 = 46.13mts. Total Area : 661 Square Meters And bounded as follows : East by: Property belonging to Mr. Venkataswamy and passage lead to rushabhavathinagar. West by : Portion of property of Abdus Salam Sold to Mr. N. H. Shariff having TMC No.540/31, North by: Property belongs to Mr. N H Shariff in TMC Khatha No.540/2, property No.31/2, South by: Road. ITEM No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.32/715/540/31 (Old Assessment No.540/31, Khatha No.31 (old khaneshwari No.41), situated at Kote kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West:11.53+19.69/2 = 15.6 mts. North to South: 43.36 mts. Total Area : 676.4 Square Meters And bounded as follows : East by : Property of Late KL Narasimhaiah, old Khaneshumari No.39 sold to Mr. Nenumal Moorjani West by : Nanjundappa's property and Road, North by : Property of Late KL Narasimhaiah, old Khaneshumari No.39 sold to Mr. N H Shariff, South by : Road. COMPOSITE SCHEDULE-'A' PROPERTY : All that part and parcel, of the immovable property bearing Corporation katha No. 426/715/B/540/2/31/2, NO. 826/715/A/540/1/31/1/ and NO. 32/715/540/31 the katha of composite schedule A property is amalgamated vide BBMP Katha No. 715/540/31/31/1/31/2, situated at kote, Kengri,bangaluru, Kengri Sub-Division, measuring approximately 16300 square feet and including all rights privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring:- East to West: A to H– 89 feet B to C- 25 feet D to E- 72.7 feetF to G- 39 feet North to South:- A to B – 92 feet C to D- 92.11feet E to F- 110.10 feet G to H- 77 feet And bounded as follows:-East by : Road, leading to Vrushabhavathi river(Private Property known as ABCJ in The Sketch) West by:- Road and (Private Property shown as HGFI in the sketch) North by:- Road South by:- Road SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY 436.89 Sq.Ft, of Undivided Share, right title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property hereby conveyed by the Vendors to the Purchaser. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Flat NO A-102 (First Floor) in Block –A, of the building known as "RF TWLIGHT" constructed on the schedule A property, having a super built up Area of 1500.85 square feet, having RCC roofing, Vitrified Tiles Floors, Sai Wood Doors & Aluminium windows and separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including common areas rights and One Car parking slot in stilt floor, and including all rights, privileges, appurtenances thereto and Bounded on East by: Flat No A-103 West by: Set Back Area North by: Set Back Area South by: Flat No A-101.
Mr. Rasheed Ameenur Ms. Ayesha Siddiqa (GPA Holder) Loan A/c No. 412000002963 Symbolic Possession Date : 17/07/2025	26/12/2024	Rs. 1,18,20,116.05	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : ITEM No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.426/715/B/540/2/31/2 (Old Assessment No.540, khata No.31 (old khaneshwari No.38), situated at Kote kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West : 23.6+34.4/2= 29mts. North to South : 19+15.06/2 = 17.3mts. Total Area: 493.87 Square Meters And bounded as follows: East by : Road, leading to Vrushabhavathi river. West by :Road. North by : Road , South by : Property belongs to Vendor ITEM No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.826/715/A/540/1/31/1 (Old Assessment No.540, khata No.31 (old khaneshwari No.39), situated at Kote kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West : 13.97+14.71/2 = 14.34mts. North to South: 31.22+7.95+9.74+43.36/2 = 46.13mts. Total Area : 661 Square Meters And bounded as follows : East by : Property belonging to Mr.Venkataswamy and passage lead to rushabhavathinagar. West by : Portion of property of Abdus Salam Sold to Mr.N.H.Shariff having TMC No.540/31, North by: Property belongs to Mr.N H Shariff in TMC Khatha No.540/2, property No.31/2, South by : Road. ITEM No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Corporation Khata No.32/715/540/31 (Old Assessment No.540, khata No.31 (old khaneshwari No.41), situated at Kote kengeri, Bengaluru, Kengeri Sub-division and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring: East to West: 11.53+19.69/2 = 15.6 mts. North to South : 43.36 mts. Total Area : 676.4 Square Meters And bounded as follows : East by : Property of Late K L Narasimhaiah, old Khaneshumari No.39 sold to Mr.Nenumal Moorjani West by: Nanjundappa's property and Road, North by :Property of Late KL Narasimhaiah, old Khaneshumari No.39 sold to Mr. N H Shariff, South by : Road. COMPOSITE SCHEDULE-'A' PROPERTY : All that part and parcel, of the immovable property bearing Corporation katha No. 426/715/B/540/2/31/2, NO. 826/715/A/540/1/31/1/ and NO. 32/715/540/31 the katha of composite schedule A property is amalgamated vide BBMP Katha No. 715/540/31/31/1/31/2, situated at kote, Kengri, Bangaluru, Kengri Sub-Division, measuring approximately 16300 square feet and including all rights privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring:- East to West:A to H– 89 feet B to C- 25 feet D to E- 72.7 feet F to G- 39 feet North to South: A to B – 92 feet C to D- 92.11feet E to F- 110.10 feet G to H- 77 feet And bounded as follows:- East by : Road, leading to Vrushabhavathi river(Private Property known as ABCJ in The Sketch) West by: Road and (Private Property shown as HGFI in the sketch) North by: Road South by: Road. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY ; 336.14 SqFt, of Undivided Share, right title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property hereby conveyed by the Vendors to the Purchaser. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Flat NO A-205 (Second Floor) in Block –A, of the building known as " RF TWLIGHT" constructed on the schedule A property, having a super built up Area of 1154.73 square feet, having RCC roofing, Vitrified Tiles Floors, Sai Wood Doors & Aluminium windows and separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including privileges, appurtenances thereto and Bounded on East by : Flat No A-204 West by : Lift and Staircase North by : Common Area South by : Set Back Area.
Ms. Rajalakshmi R Loan A/c No. 412000004684 Symbolic Possession Date :17/07/2025	20/12/2024	Rs. 2491304.00	SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.59, Municipal Katha Old No.59/2236/59, New Municipal Katha No. 1233/59/2236/59, Property No.2-2-523-83A, measuring East to West: 7.620015 meter (25 Feet), and North to South: 9.144018 (30 Feet), Totally measuring 750 Squre feet, and building there on with 58.064375 sq.meter RCC and ceramic flooring and jungle wood doors and windows, situated at Maruthi Nagar, VaderahalliDhakle, Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District, bounded on : East by: Site No.60,West by: Site No.58, North by: Site No.55,South by: Road
Mr. Raju Naik Loan A/c No. 410500004474 Physical Possession Date :17/07/2025	21/11/2023	Rs. 1047395.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY :All that piece and parcel of an immovable Residential Property bearing House No.7. LIG-II "C", situated at KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagar Taluk, Ward No.13, Muncipal Khaneshumari No.320/LIG/7/II C, measuring East to West: 12 Mtrs., and North to South: 5 Mtrs., an extent of 60 sq.Mtrs. and bounded on: East by: House No.14, LIG, West by: Road, North by: House No.8, LIG, South by: House No.6, LIG.
Mr. Raju Naik Loan A/c No. 410500004476 Physical Possession Date :17/07/2025	21/11/2023	Rs. 1177708.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY :All that piece and parcel of an immovable Residential Property bearing House No.6. LIG-II "C", situated at KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagar Taluk, Ward No.13, Muncipal Khaneshumari No.318/06/LIG-II C, measuring East to West: 12 Mtrs., and North to South: 5 Mtrs., an extent of 60 sq.Mtrs. East by: House No.15, LIG, West by: Road, North by: House No.7, LIG, South by: Site No.6/A.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 21.07.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

महाराष्ट्र शासन
महसूल विभाग

स्वातंत्र्याचा अमृतमहोत्सव

जिल्हाधिकारी व जिल्हा निवडणूक अधिकारी यांचे कार्यालय, सातारा

Office of the Collector and District Election Officer, Satara

निवडणूक शाखा, सदरबझार, सातारा, ता. जि. सातारा

दूरध्वनी क्रमांक ०२१६२–२२९६०५ E-mail : Collector.satara@maharashtra.gov.in

जा. क्र. निवडणूक / कावि / 421/ २०२५ दिनांक : १७/७/२०२५

I, Santosh Patil, Collector & Returning Officer Satara, Vittapeta Multistate Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. Karad, Tal. Karad, District - Satara, Maharashtra 415110 is authorized under the provision in Multi State Co- operative Societies Act 2002 & Rules made there under, Bye laws and Elections Rules of the Society, as per order of Ministry Of Cooperation Office Of Cooperative Election Authority **CEA-12011/298/2025** dated **06/05/2025** to conduct the election to the Board of Directors of the Society for the period of 2025 to 2030. Hereby give notice that Special General Meeting of the **Vittapeta Multi State Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. Karad, Tal. Karad, District - Satara, Maharashtra 415110** is called on **28th Aug 2025 (Thursday),** 11.00 Am **at the Office of District Collector Office, Satara** to Conduct the election to the Board of Directors Of the Society For The Period of 2025 to 2030. All the Members Of Society are requested to attend the said meeting and participate in the said elections.

Also I hereby declare that the Date Time of the elections of Board of Directors of the society in accordance with the Provisions of Multi State Co-Operative Society Act 2002, Multi State Co-Operative Society Rules 2002 Election Annexure -2 and the byelaws of the society are as per the following schedule

ELECTION PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

(As Per Bye-Law No. 32 Of the Society total No. Of Seats Of Directors To Be Elected Is 11 (General-8, Women-2, SC/ST-1)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Date Time And Place
1	Registration no of the Society	MSCS/CR/1570/2024
2	Name and address of the society	Vittapeta Multi State Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. Karad, Tal. Karad, District - Satara, Maharashtra 415110
3	Constituency Details	As per Rules and Byelaws No. 32 All 11 Directors will be elected by the Eligible members of the society (General-8, Women-2, SC/ST-1)
4	Publication Of Provisional List Of Members/ Delegates Eligible To vote	21th July 2025 (Monday) 11:00 AM at Returning Officer's office Satara
5	Time Window for Raising Objection (if any) to the Provisional List	22th July 2025 TO 26th July 2025 (Tuesday to Saturday) 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Every Day) at Returning Officer's office Satara
6	Scrutiny of objection received to the Provisional List (if any)	28th July 2025 TO 2th Aug 2025 (Monday to Saturday) 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Every Day) at Returning Officer's office Satara
7	Publication Of Final List Of Members/ Delegates Eligible To vote	2th Aug 2025 (Saturday) 3:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
8	Issue and Filing of Nomination Form	4th Aug 2025 TO 11th Aug 2025 (Monday to Monday) 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Every Day) at Returning Officer's office Satara
9	Publication of List of Nominations Received	11th Aug 2025 (Monday) 5:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
10	Scrutiny of Received Nomination Forms	12th Aug 2025 (Tuesday) 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
11	Publication of List of Valid Nominations	12th Aug 2025 (Tuesday) 5:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
12	Withdrawal of Nominations	13th Aug 2025 (Wednesday) 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
13	Publication of Final List of Contesting Candidates	13th Aug 2025 (Wednesday) 5:00 PM at Returning Officer's office Satara
14	Date of Polling, if Necessary	23th Aug 2025 (Saturday) 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The place will be declared later
15	Counting of Votes	23th Aug 2025 (Saturday) Immediately after poll. The place will be declared later
16	Declaration of Result of Board of Directors	28th Aug 2025 (Thursday) After approval of Cooperative Election Authority, New Delhi

Election Program of Office Bearer

1.	Announcement of Election Schedule 1. Time window for filing nomination. 2. Time Window for withdrawal 3. Display of List of Contesting Candidate and schedule of election	29th Aug 2025 (Friday)	After Declaration of Result of Board Members' Election at Returning Officer's office Satara
2	Meeting of Newly Constituted Board & Publication of List for Valid Nominations, Polling (If Required)	30th Aug 2025 (Saturday)	11:00 AM Onwards at Returning Officer's office Satara
3	Declaration of Results of Election of office Bearers		After Approval of Cooperative Election Authority, New Delhi

Instructions-

1. **Blank Nomination papers will remain free of charge only for the members whose name is in the list of final members**
2. **Within the period indicated in above schedule, if there is public holiday / weekly holiday the election office will remain closed on that day (Excluding polling date)**
3. **The Candidates must fulfils the eligibility for contesting the election as provided in the Multi State Co- Operative Societies Act 2002 and Rules 2002.**
4. **The candidates have to deposit Rs. 2000/- by Cash only with the Returning officer, while filing the nomination**
5. **The Election Programme is published in the Office of the Returning officer's office and Head Office of the Society and at the branches of the Society and on the official website of the Society https://www.vittapetamultistate.co.in**
6. **The list of specified symbols available for the election will be displayed on the notice board of the Returning Officer.**
7. **The candidate filing nomination form under category of reserved seats for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe should attach attested copy of caste certificate.**
8. **Polling Booths will be declared later. Every voters have to cast their vote at concerned polling station.**
9. **Counting of votes will be held at place which will be declared later.**
10. **Results of Election will be declared at place which will be declared later.**
11. **Voters are advised to bring any one of their own Photo Identity acceptable to the Election commission of India at polling station for voting.**

Sd/-
(Santosh Patil)
District Collector & Returning Officer,
Vittapeta Multistate Credit Cooperative Society Ltd.
Karad, Tal. Karad, District - Satara

Place:-Satara
Date: 17.7.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Smt. Nunna (Tatikonda) Rajya Lakshmi,W/o Sateesh Kumar, residing at 3149, Saganashkee Lane, Naperville, Illinois, U.S.A. instructed me over e-mail to say:

That my client purchased the property admeasuring about 120sq yards with RCC building bearing house no.8 (old number 13), situated in Survey No. 24/3 & 35/2, 2nd Cross, Lal Bahadur Sastry Nagar, Indira Nagar Post, Division- 50 in Bengaluru City, Karnataka, on 03.06.2006, by regd. sale deed, bearing doc. No. 972/2006, on the file of SRO, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru. Since then she remained the sole owner and the property is in my client's peaceful possession and enjoyment with absolute rights. The original sale deed and link documents of the above said property are in my clients possession. My client has not appointed anyone as her general power of attorney (GPA) holder.

If any individual indulges in fradulent purchase, sale, mortgage, lien, gift or any such type of alienation(s) by using fake documents, their actions are considered null and void and are also liable to face the legal conseqences, either civil or criminal.

If anyone has any objections, complaints, claims or any other rights over the said immovable property, they are requested to inform it with proper evidence within 15 days from the date of publication of this announcement to the address given below.

BONU JAYAMMA, ADVOCATE
D.No.9-42-105,Opp.Trelaprolu Raja high school,
Kothapet, Vijayawada-520001,
Andhra Pradesh,Cell Phone : 9846478897.

Dt.19-07-25,
Vijayawada.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, SAMBALPUR.

Email ID : eephdsbp@gmail.com

C-691 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. SEPHSBP-02/2025-26 Dt. 15.07.2025

01. Name of the Work	:	1 nos Work.
02. Type of Bid	:	Two Bid System
03. Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 281.43 lakhs
04. Period of Completion	:	6 (Six) Calendar Months
05. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 11.00 AM of dt. 21.07.2025 to 5.00 PM of 07.08.2025
06. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	:	5.00 PM of 07.08.2025
07. Date & Time of opening of technical bids	:	At 11.30AM of 08.08.2025
08. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po- Motijharan, Dist- Sambalpur-768 001

Further details can be seen from the web site http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
P.H. Division, Sambalpur

OIPR- 13026/11/0010/2526

FORM No.14
[See Regulation 33(2)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II KARNATAKA
B.S.N.L. Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

RC NO: 9082

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK,
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH, BANGALORE-560001
Certificate Holder

Versus

SRI K. RAVIKUMAR AND ANOTHER

DEMAND NOTICE

1. SRI K. RAVIKUMAR
S/o Si Karagappa R/No. 39-B,
4 Cross 1 Main Road, Basappa Layout
Pattangere, Rajarajeshwarinagar
Bangalore-560098
And
Office at M.H. Service Station
No. 16. Muneshwara Farm
100 Feet Road, Pantharapalya
Mysore Road, Bangalore-560026

2. SRI.D.S.S.M. PRASAD
R/at No. 227, 4th Block 43rd Cross,
Rajajinagar Bangalore-560010
Defendants

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A No. 297/2012** passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore and Amount of **Rs. 13,39,988/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight Only)** is due against you.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay

a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken fo recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the tribunal on 09th day of February 2016.

RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
BANGALORE

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503.
e-mail: aphmhidc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com

Tender Notice No.6/APMSIDC/2025-26 Dated: 19-07-2025

APMSIDC invites tenders through the e-procurement platform https://tender.ap eprocurement.gov.in; (1) Tender for Expression of interest (EOI) is invited for the Demonstration of Innovative, Portable and Cost-Effective Medical Technologies to Enhance Healthcare Service Delivery. (2) Identify the service provider for providing bed linen to DSH hospitals in AP.

For detailed notfiication and further details, please visit the website https://apmsidc.ap.nic.in & www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	103934378	Loan Against Property	1. Santhosh Kumar B 2. C D Basappa	05.07.2025	INR 34,23,094.40/-

Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of Apartment/flat Bearing No.12, Constructed In The First Floor, Containing Two Bedrooms In Block-5C, Measuring 850 Square Feet Of (super Built Up Area) And With The Right To Use Ace Of One Open Car Parking Space And 3.14% Undivided Right, Equivalent To 271.15 Square Feet, Title And Interest In The "Sarang, Nandi Gardens", Constructed On Land Bearing Sy.No. 12(A), Sy.no. 12 (b), Sy. No. 23, Sy.No. 24, Sy.No. 25/1, Sy.No. 25/2, Situated At Alahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560062, And Bounded As: **East By : Sy. No. 35 And Boundary Of Raghuvanahalli Village, West By : Road To Anajanpura & Sy. No. 20, North By : Sy. Nos. 20, 21, 13 And 11, South By: Tank And Sy. Nos. 27 & 26.**

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** . Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/- Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 21.07.2025
Place : Bangalore, Karnataka

Indian Overseas Bank

Bannerghatta Road Branch
Bengaluru- 560076, Karnataka
Email ID: iob1605@iob.in, Phn: 8925951605

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E- AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on, AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal h**ttps://BANNKNET.in**

Name & address of the Borrowers: **1.Mr. Vellankal Sukumaran** (Legal heir of the deceased borrower V.S.Sudha)Vellankal Veedu, Anickadu Post Anikkad, Kottayam Kerala - 686503., **2. Mrs.Lalithamma** (Legal heir of the deceased borrower V.S.Sudha) Vellankal Veedu, Anickadu Post Anikkad, Kottayam Kerala - 686503

Date of NPA: 01.04.2015 **Date of Demand notice: 09.06.2016**

Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.47,63,173.50 as on 09.06.2016 with further interest & costs.

Date of Possession Notice: 24.08.2016

Dues claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.48,44,020.50 as on 23.08.2016 with further interest & costs less repayments, if any, made after issuance of demand notice.

Outstanding dues as on 17.07.2025 is of Rs.1,05,11,207/- with further interest & costs till the date of repayment in full.

***Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc.): Not known**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Residential Building consist of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor bearing Site No.26, Sy No.105/5, Municipal No.105/5/26, BBMP Katha No.40/39/37/39/105/5/26, CMC katha No.37, 6th cross, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560068. **Measurement: East to West** - 20 Ft; **North to South** - 28 Ft, **Total Extent of the Site - 560 Sq.ft, Constructed Area:** GF - 500 Sq.Ft, FF - 500 Sq.Ft, SF - 500 Sq.Ft. **Total Constructed Area - 1500 Sq.Ft. Bounded by : East** - Property belonging to Ramakrishnappa, **West** - Road, **North** - Temple, **South** - Portion of South Side Site No.26

This property is owned by Late V S Sudha

The reserve price and the earnest money deposit is:

Sr. No.	Security Details	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid Increase Amt
1	Residential House Property as mentioned above	Rs.60,88,281/-	Rs.6,08,829/-	Rs. 50,000/-

Date & Time of auction: 08.08.2025, 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

Bid increase amount: Rs. 50,000/- **Auto extension time: 10 minutes**

Known Encumbrance if any: NIL

Inspection Date & Time: During office hours from 10:00 AM till 05:00 PM, from 21.07.2025 to 05.08.2025.

***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues.**

For terms and conditions please visit: https://www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx, https://www.publishtenders.gov.in, https://BANNKNET.in/bidder-registration (web portal of e-auction Service provider)

Date: 18.07.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

AXIS BANK LTD

(CIN: L65110GJ1993PLC020769)
Structured Assets Group, 1st Floor, Axis House, No. 3, Club House Road, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002. | www.axisbank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Mortgagors i.e. **1) M/s. Krishna Enterprises (Housing & Infrastructures) India Private Limited i.e 2) Mr. R. Anil Kumar S/o Mr. Kuttapu Nambiyath Ravi, 3) Mr. R. Sunil Kumar S/o Sri Kuttapu Nambiyath Ravi, 4) M/s. Krishna Enterprises (Housing & Infrastructures) India Private Limited – (POA holder of Mr. C. Jayanna, Mr. Munegowda, Mr. Narayanappa, Mr. Nanjappa & Mr. M. Rajagopal)** that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Axis Bank Limited i.e. Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on March 15, 2024 through court order Crl.Mis.No.6074/2020. and handed over to Authorised Officer of Axis Bank Limited, i.e., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS for recovery of **Rs 10,07,09,648/- (Rupees Ten Crores Seven Lacs Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-Eight Only) as on 04.09.2024 along with further interest thereon from 05.09.2024**, at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment, incidental expenses, other charges, costs etc (minus further payments, if any). due to Axis Bank Limited from the above-mentioned borrower and guarantors.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Details of lot : **Properties under Sl no. 1 & 2 in Schedule C. standing in the name of M/s. Krishna Enterprises (Housing & Infrastructures) India Private Limited. Property in the name of M/s Krishna Enterprises Housing and Infra India Pvt Ltd : Schedule 'A' Property : Item: I -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site nos. 6 & 15, Kahaneshumari No. 827, Khata No. 288/109/1A-6 & 15 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 60 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, West by : Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, North by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, South by: 30 feet Road left by Bharath Electronics Ltd. **Item: II -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site nos.7 & 14, Kahaneshumari No. 756/13, Khata No. 286/109/1A-7 & 14 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 60 feet and bounded on that: East by: Site No. 8 & 13, West by: Property belonging to Pattabhi, North by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, South by: 20 feet wide Road. **Item: III -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site nos. 16, Khata No. 510/109/1A/16 subsequent Khata No. 289/109/1A-16 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South : 36 feet and bounded on that: East by: 20 feet Road, West by: Property bearing No.17, North by : Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, South by: Property of N. Sampath. **Item: IV -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site nos. 8 & 13, Khata No. 287/109/1A-8 & 13 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South : 60 feet and bounded on that: East by: Private Property, West by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, North by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, South by: 20 feet Wide Road. **Item: V -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site no. 5, Kahaneshumari No. 470, Khata No. 290/109/1A-5 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 40 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property belong to Pattabhi, West by: 20 feet Wide Road, North by : Private Property, South by: 20 feet Wide Road. **Item: VI -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site no. 1, Khata No. 1052/109/1B-1 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1B of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 152 feet and North to South : 35 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, West by: Property belong to Chikkavenkatappa, North by: Property belong to Chikkavenkatappa, South by : 30 feet Wide Road. **Item: VII -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site no. 2, Khata No. 1053/109/1B-1 issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1B of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 152 feet and North to South : 35 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property belong to Annadurai & Sampath Kumar, West by: Property belong to Chikkavenkatappa, North by: 20 feet Wide Road, South by: Property of M/s. Sreekumar & Company. **Item: VIII -** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Poultry Land, Khata No. 1054/109/1A-1B issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A & 109/1B of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : (216+192)/2 feet and North to South : 172 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property of Munithimmarayappa, West by: Property of M/s. Sree Kumar & Company, North by: Property of Chikkavenkatappa, South by: 20 feet Wide Road. **Item: IX -** All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing, Khata No. 16, V.P.No.474/A, subsequent Khata No.25/109/1A-1055, issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92, formed in Sy. No. 109/1A of Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 136 feet and North to South : 80 feet and bounded on that: East by: Property of Smt. Renuka Kumar, West by: Property of Sri. Narayanaswamy, North by: Property of Smt. Renuka Kumar, South by: Property of Narayanaiah. **Schedule – 'B' Property :** All that piece and parcel of property Residential Site Nos. 01, 02, 05, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16 and Vacant land bearing Khata No.1054/109/1A-1B, presently bearing khata Nos. 286/109/A, 287/109/A, 288/109/A, 289/109/A, 289/1/109/A, 290/109/5 and 1052/109/1B, 1053/109/1B, 1054/109/1B, 1055/109/A, the said numbers merged as single Khata bearing 286/109/A, issued by the Byatrayanapura City Municipal Council, Bangalore – 92 (Presently comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore), formed out of converted Sy Nos. 109/1A, 109/1A1 and 109/1B of Kodigehalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, totally measuring 77,881 Sq. ft., and bounded as hereunder : - East by: Road, West by : Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Road, **Lot No.1 - Property 1 : Schedule – 'C' Property : Details of property Mortgaged under Sl.no 1 & 2 : Simple mortgage of Property located at Flat No. G- 012A, Ground Floor, Block E, Krishna Greens, Khata No. 286/109/A/28, Sy. No. 109/1A & 109/1B, Krishna Temple Road, Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore - 560 097.** All that piece and parcel of Flat / Apartment bearing No.F008, BBMP new Municipal Sub No. 286/109/A/28-F-008, on the First Floor of 'B' Block in the Apartment known as "KRISHNA GREENS", situated at Kodigehalli Village, Bangalore, having super built up area of 1741 Sq. ft., along with undivided share in land measuring 942 Sq. ft., and garden area 159 Sq. ft., in Schedule – B property and common right over the passages, lobbies, lift, open space, staircases, corridors etc. in the apartment, the building is constructed with Bricks and Cement with RCC roofing, Mosaic tiles flooring, jungle wood doors and steel frame windows with electricity, water and sanitary facility. **Lot No.2 - Property 2 : Simple mortgage of Property located F008, First Floor, Block B, Krishna Greens, Khata No. 286/109/A/28, Sy.No. 109/1A & 109/1B, Krishna Temple Road, Kodigehally Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore - 560 097.** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No.12A, BBMO No.286/109/A/12-G-012A, on the Ground Floor, of 'E' Block in the Apartment known as "KRISHNA GREENS", situated at Kodigehalli Village, Bangalore, having super built up area of 1306 Sq.ft., along with undivided share in land measuring 707 Sq.ft., and garden area 159 Sq.ft., in Schedule – B property and common right over the passages, lobbies, lift, open space, staircases, corridors etc. in the apartment, the building is constructed with Bricks and Cement with RCC roofing, Mosaic tiles flooring, jungle wood doors and steel frame windows with electricity, water and sanitary facility. **Lot No.3 - Property 3 : Simple mortgage of the property standing in the name of Mr. C Jayanna, Mr. Munegowda, Mr. Narayanappa, Mr. Nanjappa, represented through their POA holder / owned by M/s. Krishna Enterprises (Housing & Infrastructures) India Private Limited, located Villa No.11, Khata No. KNW-V-11, Krishna North Woods, S.No. 75/3B & 77/3, Chokkanahalli Village, Nera Hegdenagar, Bangalore - 560 064.** All that piece and parcel of residential Villa Plot bearing No.11, as per the plan sanction by Bangalore Development Authority bearing No.AEE1(N)/T-71/2011-12 dated 09.06.2011 forming a part of the project "Krishna North Woods" developed on land bearing Sy no.75/3B and Sy.no.77/3 (Villa Plot No.11 formed in Sy.no.75/3B) of Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: (16.39+16.55)/2 meters, North to South: 10.67 mtrs, totally measuring 175.73 Sq. mtrs. or 1890.91 Sq. ft. of total area along with Residential Villa Constructed thereon with a super built-up area of about 3327 Sq. ft., comprised in Ground, First Floor, Second Floor and consisting of 4 bedrooms, 1 kitchen, 3 Family / Living lounge, 4 bathroom cum toilets, dining room, lobby, terrace and bounded on that: East by: Remaining portion of Sy No. 75, West by: Road, North by: Villa No.10, South by: Villa No.12.

Possession of the above-mentioned property is taken on 15.03.2024 under Crl.Mis.No.6074/2020 passed by CMM Court at Bengaluru and handed over the Possession to the Authorised Office of Axis Bank Limited.

Date and time of E-Auction :	05.08.2025 Between 11.00 A.M to 11.15 A.M for Property 1 Between 11.15 A.M to 12.00 Noon for Property 2 Between 12.00 P.M to 12.15 P.M for Property 3 (with maximum of 3 attempts of five minutes each till sale is completed)
Reserve Price	Rs.80,00,000/- (Eighty Lakhs only) – Lot-1-Property 1 Rs.60,00,000/- (Sixty Lakhs only) – Lot-2-Property 2 Rs.2,08,00,000/-(Two Crores Eight Lakhs only) – Lot-3-Property 3
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.8,00,000/- (Eight Lakhs only) – Property 1 Rs.6,00,000/- (Six Lakhs only) – Property 2 Rs.20,80.000/-(Twenty Lakhs Eighty Thousand only) – Property 3
Last date for submission of bid and EMD Remittance	Demand Draft/Pay Order in the favour of 'Axis Bank Ltd.' payable at Chennai to be submitted **on or before 04th August 2025 by 5:00 p.m.** at either of the following address :-**Chennai - Mr Moorthy K, +91 9710006661** Axis Bank Ltd., 1st Floor, Axis House, No 3, Club House Road, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.
Inspection of Property	For inspection, please contact Mr Moorthy K (Authorised officer) on the following number +91 9710006661. Inspection shall be done with prior approval of authorised officer on a working day.
Bid Increment Amount	Rs.5,00,000/- for Property- 1 (Auction ID: 338085) Rs.5,00,000/- for Property- 2 (Auction ID: 338086) Rs.10,00,000/- for Property- 3 (Auction ID: 338087)

Encumbrances known to the Secured Creditor: NIL

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices** and/or https://axisbank.auctiontiger.net. (Property- 1 (Auction ID: 338085), Property- 2 (Auction ID: 338086), Property- 3 (Auction ID: 338087)

Date : 21/07/2025 | Place : Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.**

Copy to:- **Mr. C Jayanna, S/o. Late Mr Chowdappa**, Dasarahalli, H.A Forma Post, Kishnarjapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore – 560 024. | **Mr. C Munegowda, S/o. Late Mr Chowdappa**, Dasarahalli, H.A Forma Post, Kishnarjapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore – 560 024. | **Mr. C Narayanappa, S/o. Late Mr Chowdappa, Dasarahalli**, H.A Forma Post, Kishnarjapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore - 560 024. | **Mr. C Nanjappa, S/o. Late Mr Chowdappa, Dasarahalli**, H.A Forma Post, Kishnarjapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore – 560 024. | **Mr. M Rajagopal,S/o. Late Mr. Munivenkatappa**, Nagavara, Arabic College Post, Bangalore - 560 045.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase the House Property bearing Old No.27/A, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, now bearing New Municipal No.57, PID No.58-66-57, Property New E.PID No.6443273311, 36th 'A' Cross, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1000 sq. feet, from 1)Smt.Meera Sridhar 2) Sri. Shayan. S 3) Smt. Sharanya S. Murthy 4) Smt. B. S. Kamala 5) Sri. Ruthvik C. Ananth & 6) Guru Raja Chennagiri.

Anybody having any right, title, interest or share in the schedule property shall notify the same to the undersigned with documentary evidence, within ten days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my clients will purchase the schedule property, as if no valid claims are subsisting against the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the House Property bearing Old No.27/A, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, now bearing New Municipal No.57, PID No.58-66-57, Property New E.PID No.6443273311, 36th 'A' Cross, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1000 sq. feet, and bounded as follows

East by : Property No.27/B,
West by : Property No.26/B,
North by : Road,
South by : Property No.34/A.

K.SURYAPRAKASH RAO, ADVOCATE,
Chakravarthy Complex, Sajjanrao Circle,
V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04.
Mobile No: 9845347114, 6360911979.
Bengaluru. Dated: 21-07-2025.

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ- 561203

ಸಂ.: **DPA/TP/ಭೂಉನಿ/06/2025-26** ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.07.2025**

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961ರ ಕಲಂ 69(3)ರ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಂತೆ)

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಅಇ 95 ಬಿಎಂಆರ್ 2016 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.11.2017 ರನ್ವಯ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮವು "ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶ" ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಅಇ 157 ಬಿಎಂಆರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.01.2009 ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.01.2009ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 3/6ರಲ್ಲಿ 00–15.50ಗುಂಟೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ' ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡು ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 69 (2) ರನ್ವಯ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾದ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ರದ್ದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೇ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ 69(3) ರನ್ವಯ 'ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ' ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಕೋರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 69 (4) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ' ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿವಸಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು)	ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಂತೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1	ಶ್ರೀ ನೇಮಾರಾಂ ಜೆ. ಬಿನ್ ಜೇವತ್ ರಾಮ್‌ಜೀ, ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶ್‌ರಾಮ್ ಜೆ. ಬಿನ್ ಹಮೀರ್‌ರಾಮ್	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಕಸಬಾ	ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ	3/6	0–15.50	ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ

ಸಹಿ/–ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: **The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 16.07.2025	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date Time & Place for submission of Bid
1	45348640003502	**1) M/s. VHK Enteprises,** Represented by its Partners **Dr. V Harshini Mr. Krishna Raj, 2) M/s. Swasti Hospital,** Represented by its Proprietor **Dr. V Harshini, 3) Mrs. Harshini V,** Partner of **M/s. VHK Enteprises,** Proprietor of **M/s. Swasti Hospital, Also at: M/s. Swasti Hospital, Also at: M/s. VHK Enteprises, 4) Mr. Krishna Raj,** Partner of **M/s. VHK Enterprises, 5) Dr. Vuppaladadiam Suguna**	07.11.2024	02.05.2025	**Rs.1,57,14,733.14** (Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Three and Fourteen Paisa Only)	**01.08.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.87,76,000/-** (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Only)	**Rs.8,77,600/-** (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only)	**07.08.2025 @ 02:00 PM**	**06.08.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071**
	Details of Secured Assets: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No.504, D Block, 5th Floor, "Aqua-1" constructed on the converted land bering Survey No.89/1, 92/2 & 105 Ozone Urbana Township, Kannamangala Village, Devanahalli, Bangalore-560067 and **Bounded on: East by:** Corridor & Open Space, **West by:** Open Space, **North by:** Open Space & **South by:** Unit D-503. **Measurement:** 937 Sq.ft., Super Built up Area along with Undivided share of land measuring 271 Sq.ft., out of the total extent measuring Acre 4-26.077 Guntas in the converted land bearing Survey No.89/1, 92/2 & 105. Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No.502(D-502), D Block, 5th Floor, "Aqua-1" E Khatha No.150300200400120628, Kannamangala Grama Panchayath, constructed on the converted land bearing Survey No.89/1, 92/2 & 105. Situated at Kannamangala Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District and **Bounded on: East by:** Unit D-501, **West by:** Open Space, **North by:** Corridor & Open Space, **South by:** Open Space & Unit E-505. **Measurement: 1145** Sq.ft., Super Built up Area along with Undivided share of land measuring 331 Sq.ft., out of the total extent measuring Acre 4-26.077 Guntas in the converted land bearing Survey No.89/1, 92/2 & 105.									
2	33649440000049 & 33649670000036	**1) Mrs. Manjula L,** Prop. **M/s. Venkateshwara Hotel, Also at: M/s. Venkateshwara Hotel, 2) Mr. Nagaraju P**	06.09.2024	13-06-2025	**Rs.7,78,376.16** (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six and Sixteen Paisa Only)	**07.08.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.25,10,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	**Rs.2,51,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty One Thousand Only)	**21.08.2025 @ 02:00 PM**	**20.08.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071**
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Southern portion of the Site bearing No.76/16, New Khatha No.76/23, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West 33.9 feet North to South 23.5 feet and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property belonging to Sri Rangappa, **West by:** Property belonging to Sri Honappa, **North by:** Remaining portion of the same site No. been allotted in favour of Nagaraj Prakash and a passage, **South by:** Private Property.									
3	46989440000282	**1) Mr. Raheem Khan, Also at: M/s. Milk Business, 2) Mrs. Arshiya R**	06.04.2023	19.06.2025	**Rs.2,79,932.00** (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Two Only)	**07.08.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.6,30,000/-** (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	**Rs.63,000/-** (Rupees Sixty Three Thousand Only)	**21.08.2025 @ 02:00 PM**	**20.08.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071**
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.15/14 Panchayath Khatha No.150300302300600135, situated at Maralenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapara Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **East by:** House of Rajanna, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Rajanna's House. Measuring East to West 12.192 Mtrs and North to South 9.144 Mtrs, in total Measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ srinivas@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362951653).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 21.07.2025, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

You can't put democracy and freedom back into a box — Aleksander Kwasniewski

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN JUVENILE INNOCENCE AND CALCULATED CRIMES

THE guidelines for trying juveniles accused of heinous crimes still need fine-tuning, given the dilemmas the victims, their families and prosecutors face. A case in point relates to the minor, accused of alleged drunk driving at high speed and killing two IT professionals in Pune last May. Debates continue even a year later on whether he should be tried as an adult. The prosecutors deem it a heinous crime, which legally obligates the minor's trial as an adult. The defence argues that only sections prescribing a minimum seven-year punishment are considered heinous; the accused cannot be tried as an adult since none of the charges prescribe such a penalty. The Juvenile Justice Board sided with the defence, also disallowing the preliminary evaluation of the minor's mental capacity and maturity to realise the consequences of his actions for trying him as an adult.

This is the grey area that needs attention. In the case of rapes by juveniles, the Nirbhaya case prompted an amendment to the law, deeming rapes as heinous and trying minors as adults. The juvenile boards now apply this yardstick in rape cases. However, death cases are complicated, as in the Pune instance.

We need a more assertive and uniform legal mechanism to clarify these ambiguities. The judiciary must ensure the juvenile board's discretion is pragmatic and not subjective. If the benefit of doubt favours the juvenile accused on technical grounds, it often sidelines the severity of the offence. All caused deaths should be declared heinous, its definition not bogged down by sections and punishments. A psychological evaluation must be mandatory, and, in addition to corroborative evidence, it should consider the accused's actions before and after the incident.

Juvenile law correctly emphasises reformation over retribution, but it must reflect the evolving reality of juvenile criminality. The State and the judiciary act as guardians of juveniles accused, assuming that, by their age, they cannot fully comprehend their criminal actions. Today, most juveniles, irrespective of the social settings of oppression or indulgence, are no longer naïve or impulsive. Offensive digital and social media content influences them, and many engage in crimes with full awareness, even brutality. Courts must treat all juvenile offenders as products of systemic failure, but exercise rigour in heinous cases where they exhibit violent free will or total indifference.

MEDICAL TRUTH NEEDS TO EXPOSE COSMETIC FICTION

CURATED perfection and influencer culture are driving the innocent pursuit of youth and beauty in a perilous direction. Fair skin, unblemished faces, and lustrous hair are the ideals of attractiveness, and exploiting this aspiration, the cosmetic industry is peddling an array of skin-whitening agents, DIY beauty kits, supplements, and so-called "miracle" injectables. Easily accessible and under-regulated, influencers and beauty experts relentlessly promote them. Self-help classes market magic cures, such as glutathione and Vitamin C injections, which the movie and modelling industries use regularly. As are steroid creams, Vitamin D supplements, skin patches, and hair health products. Unmonitored sales and prolonged use can play havoc with one's health.

At the heart of this trend is a generation growing up on internet advice and reel-life illusions, as well as assured beauty shortcuts to social acceptance and success. However, beneath the promises lies a menacing truth. A recent study revealed that formaldehyde, commonly used in embalming and industrial manufacturing, is also heavily used in cosmetics, face creams, and body lotions for darker skin. Darker-skinned consumers are disproportionately exposed to these toxins. Societal pressures make them consume more beauty products that may contain hazardous chemicals, such as parabens, sulfates, and phthalates. At least 30 percent of users have reported adverse reactions. The film industry plays its own role, celebrating the likes of Shah Rukh Khan and Tom Cruise for their youthfulness and setting unattainable vanity goals.

The fallout is becoming apparent as dermatologists report an increasing number of cases of skin damage, infections, vitamin overdose, hormonal and reproductive complications, and a disturbing rise in mental health issues linked to the misuse of steroid creams. The medical fraternity attributes this to the influence of social media and inadequate medical monitoring and prescription practices. Consumers fail to realise that these quick fixes, while enhancing beauty, have multiple side effects. Melanotan nasal sprays often lead to melanoma, and self-injecting Botox filler kits can cause infections and even blindness. It is high time that public discourse caught up with medical reality. Regulation of risky products and their marketing is necessary. Beauty norms should be challenged in visual and broadcast messaging and societal trends. Brands have to be accountable for the safety of their products as well as the narratives they create. Ethical guidelines must be drawn up for influencers to follow.

QUICK TAKE

CLEAN THE SLATE

IT'S a "surprise on the positive side", the Supreme Court noted when a Tamil Nadu legislator with no crime record whatsoever appeared before it in a case last fortnight. That is a forceful reflection of today's politics when a politician's unblemished record is a wow moment. The court's reaction, a mixture of irony and disbelief, is also an indictment of the system in which routine political malfeasance undermines effective governance. Look at the numbers—251 MPs have criminal cases, 170 of them facing serious charges, the apex court heard recently. Nearly 45 percent of 4,092 MLAs have lengthy rap sheets. Criminality must cease to be a *fait accompli* for political success.

The success of peninsular states in fostering growth is why they must pay attention to reducing inequality of participation in delivering growth, not of consumption through redistributive subsidies

ONLY INCLUSIVE GROWTH CAN CUT SUBSIDY BURDEN

RATHIN ROY

Distinguished professor at Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; visiting senior fellow, Overseas Development Institute, London

THE PENINSULA

SOURAV ROY

ALL the peninsular states have dramatically reduced extreme poverty and made considerable improvements in living standards, human development, and economic modernisation. These are fantastic achievements when measured against the abysmal state of affairs in North and East India. However, the next phase of economic transformation necessitates a strategy of prosperity that secures higher incomes for the majority of people to improve the lives of their families—without relying on public subsidies. And the biggest challenge to executing such a strategy will be reversing the persistent and ubiquitous inequality that characterises the contemporary economic landscape of the peninsula.

To understand this better, it is essential to distinguish between inclusion and redistribution. Consider a family of working adults. One earns 80 percent of the family income, and the rest, 5 percent each. The top earner will subsidise the others, but that will make the family entirely dependent on this single earner. In a family where all four members contribute 25 per cent each to the total income, the question of dependence does not arise.

When growth enriches the few at the expense of the many, governments spend more on redistribution to compensate for inequality. This gives rise to "schemes" to provide the majority with subsidised medicines, affordable meals, pensions, income support, and free transport, among other benefits. These subsidies are more affordable the richer a State. Hence, a lot of people who suffer from unequalising growth in the peninsula are better off than those in poorer states.

However, fiscal policy is a hard taskmaster. States with a $3,500 per capita income (PCI) are spending the same proportion of their budgets on providing compensating subsidies as states with a $1,100 PCI. Both categories of states have no resources to invest in growth, employment and human capital. The peninsular states will be at higher levels of income and human development due to past progress, but will also be stuck in a development trap. The success of peninsular states in fostering growth is precisely why they need to pay the most urgent attention to reducing inequality, not inequality of consumption through redistributive subsidies, but inequality of participation in delivering growth and enjoying the income rewards that come with it.

Take Kerala. It has the highest per capita income (PCI) of all major states and top-notch human development. However, there are not enough quality jobs for a well-educated young population. Female labour force participation is falling. Income and consumption inequality in Kerala are now among the highest of all Indian states. This means that the state government must undertake increasingly heavy fiscal lifting to compensate those not benefiting from the Kerala story.

Tamil Nadu (TN) has the highest manufacturing-GDP ratio in the peninsula. Consumption inequality is declining. While deprivation and inequality between rich and poor districts are pronounced, state government interventions and subsidies have considerably improved the quality of life in poorer districts in recent years. Yet, wages offered by foreign mega corps like Samsung and Foxconn are too low for these workers to be eligible to pay income tax.

So, manufacturing has not been the engine of inclusive prosperity in Tamil Nadu. The state continues to subsidise these workers and their families with meals, education, and transportation, despite their employment in high-quality manufacturing jobs. It also spends a significant amount of public money offering incentives to foreign investors, but the resultant investments do not deliver a quantum increase in inclusive prosperity—the rich continue to disproportionately enjoy the income and wealth benefits of the manufacturing boom, leaving the government with the task of compensatory redistribution.

In Telangana and Karnataka, the picture is stark. Nearly 38 percent of Karnataka's GSDP is generated in the Bengaluru urban district. The Hyderabad metropolitan area (Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts) accounts for over 50 percent of Telangana's GSDP. These metros have concentrations of high-net-worth individuals and serve as a hub of luxury consumption, in stark contrast to the picture of low prosperity and high vulnerability that prevails in the rest of the state. This, despite excellent human development, and near elimination of extreme poverty. Again, therefore, the major activity of these state governments is redistribution—spending money to compensate the majority who have benefited very little from the transformational increases in the aggregate per capita of these states. Better to be an average Kannadiga than a Bihari, but a long way to go to approach the prosperity of an average Malaysian.

Two important corollary features of inequality cause further roadblocks to investing in future prosperity. Much of the concentrated wealth and income is stowed "under the hood" to avoid taxation and accountability. Hence, gold and real estate markets boom in these locations. I am unable to buy a resale property in the four major cities of South India without being asked for at least half the payment in "cash". Young families and small businesses, therefore, confront outrageously expensive asking prices for the limited stock of "clean money" real estate. This is a pan-India phenomenon, but a particularly serious challenge for the peninsula.

The second is the persistence of the informal sector. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have the same PCI as Indonesia, but the cheapest cup of tea costs about the same as in Bihar. A low-paid, low-productivity, informal sector, fuelled by cheap labour from the poorer northern and eastern states, is deployed in substantial measure to subsidise feudal lifestyles that are otherwise anachronistic in a middle-income region. This perpetuates an extractive culture of low wages and low productivity, which throttles progress toward the next stage of high-wage, high-productivity development transformation. If the peninsula is to grow and prosper, building on its impressive achievements, compensation for inequality is not enough. A strategy of inclusive prosperity, rather than fiscal redistribution, needs to be urgently executed. There is the talent to do this, but is the peninsular elite and political leadership capable of rising to meet the challenge? *(Views are personal)*

(rathin100@gmail.com)

A TIME FOR THOUGHTFUL GESTURES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

TODAY is Kamika Ekadashi, extra special because it falls in the holy month of Shravan, which commenced on July 11 and ends on August 9. It is meant to be a time of reflection, spiritual inquiry, and stock-taking of events, relationships, and directions that are important to us. A calendar opportunity provided by tradition to re-evaluate what we want to keep, and think of how we can make small or big changes for our well-being.

The belief goes that this Ekadashi is further powered by the preceding Ashadhi Ekadashi on July 6. That's also known as Dev Shayani Ekadashi because it's believed to be the day when Bhagavan Vishnu enters a four-month period of celestial 'sleep' in Yoga Nidra, or yogic 'sleep'. The entire responsibility of keeping the universe going falls on Lord Shiva during this annual occurrence, a period also known as Chaturmaas or 'four months'.

It's believed that it's good luck to regularly listen to the Vishnu Sahasra Namam or 'The Thousand Names of Vishnu', a passage from the *Mahabharata*, during this period. Grandsire Bhishma imparted it to Yudhishthira from his bed of arrows. Or else, read or listen daily to even one verse from the *Bhagavad Gita*. This is recommended to connect with and channel Mahavishnu's deeply restful and powerful Yoga Nidra energy into our lives, thereby reducing stress.

To enhance this step in our personal journey, and in our *sakhyam* or friendship with God, we are also given a recommendation for Kamika Ekadashi, indeed for the entire month of Shravan. The recommendation is simple yet powerful—donate to those in need, giving whatever you can of food, clothing, water, or monetary assistance. Everything counts, big or little. Even a student or someone on a tight budget can make small but thoughtful gestures to earn merit.

An elderly mochi or cobbler gave me a good clue about this when I went to get a slipper repaired. There were food carts along the road selling momos, samosas and veg burgers. I impulsively asked if I could get him something. Instead of the fried food, he said he would like bananas, a wise choice. So, I got him six from the fruit man's cart. It cost a small sum of ₹30, but it was clean, power food, full of nutrition. Giving fruit is certainly a good, healthy option as a gesture that any one of us could make, and not only on an Ekadashi.

Delhi NCR is presently aswarm with *kavadias* on their way to Haridwar to fetch Ganga water for the *shivlings* in their temples at home. Sometimes it feels like an invasion because there are lumpen gangs among them who resort to violence and the destruction of cars and shops in the city. The police seem to be firmly on their side. I feel bad about this because the genuine pilgrims marching stoically under the sun on the long road to Haridwar get a bad name because of the rowdies. Many devout householders, shop owners and even companies set up camps along the route for the *kavadias*, offering them free food, baths, and mats to rest on under a canopy.

PTI

Donating to those in need, whether food, clothes, water or money, can deepen one's personal journey and friendship with God this Kamika Ekadashi. Genuine giving comes from the heart, centred on the well-being of others rather than personal gains

One year, at a big *kavadiya* camp at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi, one such group of hosts, traders from Karol Bagh market, told me piously, "We do it for us, not them, because it's good merit". The rewards they're after are "peace and prosperity". These camps usually serve heavy, oily, fried food—puris, kachoris, samosas, potato curry, and loads of sweets, which does not sound helpful at all for those walking long distances.

I often wonder if these hosts could be persuaded to change their offerings to fruit, milk and nutritious vegetable curries with rotis or rice. It could be economically managed with a bit of planning to really help sustain pilgrims, rather than making it about themselves. But that requires self-awareness or, at a cosmic level, awareness-building programmes by the state governments along the route, a '*chintan manthan*'.

Another hurdle is the immovable wall of established tastes. Bhandaras or community meals in temples usually feature fried food. Even fasts are broken with fried food. So, it seems pretty impossible to change the '*halwai* habit', a *halwai* being the professional cook hired to turn out the puris and potato curry. So, I'm wholly hesitant to suggest it to anyone, but can't help wondering each Shravan why nobody wants to consider offering appropriate marching food, maybe tasty *sattu* rotis and alternative *sabzi*. I can't practice what I preach because I am inclined to other causes.

However, some very nice gestures can happen, too, in Delhi. Last week, a dear friend of decades, a UP-ite, threw an 'all-girls' birthday lunch as she does each year. Her friends from school, college and work are invited. She sets up a QR code for a charity of her choice and asks us to contribute whatever we want to that cause. This time, she chose an animal shelter called All Creatures Great and Small. No pressure, just a sweet poem about it on WhatsApp, saying 'If you like'. She treated us to sangria, Thai food and date pancakes with coconut-jaggery ice cream. Some guests preferred to bring presents, which was also acceptable. Many others were pleased to have the chance to contribute somewhere genuine, knowing she would have researched it properly, and were happy to respect her wishes. Her gesture was very much in tune with the spirit of this Ekadashi, wouldn't you say?

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Parliamentary conduct

Ref: *Monsoon session: Answers MPs must seek in parliament* (Jul 20). The parliament must demonstrate the most democratic form of debate, with the speaker possessing paramount authority. It is not possible to clap with one hand. Similarly, the treasury and opposition benches must co-operate for a smooth conduct of the parliament.

HP Murali, Bengaluru

Greasy move

Ref: *Samosa and jalebi face babu's betrayal* (Jul 20). The health ministry's directive to display warnings regarding the fat and sugar content in traditional Indian snacks is a misguided attempt at health reform. This move demonstrates a lack of understanding of the real sources of dietary hazards, and begrudges our culinary heritage.

Sridevi Tejaswani K, email

Trump-Epstein palling

Ref: *Return of the man who knew too much* (Jul 20). As stated in the *Wall Street Journal*'s recent piece, US President Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein's camaraderie goes way back, casts a definitive shadow on Trump's presidency.

G David Milton, Kanyakumari

Proportional attention

Ref: *The other class struggle* (Jul 19). Rounded seating arrangement in school classrooms gives teachers a better view to interact with, and attend to, children. This, however, is only possible when an adequate teacher-to-student ratio is established, which must be a priority for both public and private institutions.

Sreenivasan Raman, email

Mentoring mentors

Ref: *BDS student dies by suicide, faculty held* (Jul 20). The recent reports of female students taking the extreme step due to harassment from teachers indicates a deterioration in the value system. This coming from people responsible for mentoring and imparting knowledge on their wards is all the more worrisome indeed.

R Sriramprasad, email

Nimisha's lifeline

Ref: *Blood money: Forgiveness for a price* (Jul 20). While the execution being deferred comes as a temporary relief for Nimisha, her family, and all the people waiting for her return; the end goal still remains. It is the heartfelt desire and wish of the people of the entire nation that Nimisha gets released and comes back home safely through whichever amicable means required.

R Sampath, Chennai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Anurag Thakur @ianuragthakur
In past 11 years, the BJP has appeared ready to conduct the House in dignified manner and discuss every issue, and our intent remains same going forward.

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
The transformation in the lives of the country's youth will begin from Bihar. The Congress's resolve is unwavering – rights to talent .

Lalu Prasad Yadav @laluprasadrjd
The more speeches Prime Minister Modi gives, the less work he does. Does a working PM have so much time that he roams around performing street plays in every alley?

'SIR will ensure rights of genuine voters'

Rahul's intention is only to create confusion on every initiative; govt transparent about Operation Sindoor: Minister

UNION Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS in the PMO, and MoS for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, and Department of Space, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, criticised the Opposition for creating confusion over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In a free-wheeling interview with **Rajesh Kumar Thakur**, he accused them of misleading the public out of fear of losing ineligible votes. **Excerpts:**

Opposition is united against SIR being carried out in poll-bound Bihar, accusing your government of using it to drop voters from other parties. What do you have to say?
These are untrue and baseless allegations made by the Opposition out of fear and frustration over losing the support of undeserving voters. The SIR, which is now being carried out successfully in Bihar, is not intended to remove people from voting lists but to ensure that voting rights are upheld for genuine voters. The Opposition currently has no agenda other than opposing initiatives that are in the larger interest of the nation or individual states.

Will voter names' removal under SIR hurt NDA's poll chances in Bihar?
Absolutely not. It is not designed to prevent anyone from exercising their voting rights but to ensure that only genuine voters participate. The people of Bihar are highly aware and understand the benefits of such an exercise, and they will not be misled by the Opposition. The NDA will not face any negative electoral consequences; in fact, it is the Opposition—which has been exploiting the inclusion of ineligible voters without proper documentation—that is alarmed by SIR.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has accused your government of "snatching and stealing" votes through SIR. What is your response?
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is known for making baseless allegations to distract the public. In fact, he was the one who previously advocated for poll roll revisions after his party's defeat in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. Rahul Gandhi's intention is only to create confusion among the public about every initiative. But the people of Bihar are wise and understand his motives well.

How is the NDA gearing up to counter the Opposition in the Monsoon Session starting Monday?
NDA is fully prepared. Since the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi works for 'Sabka Saath', 'Sabka Vikas' and through 'Sabka Prayas', there is no issue on which the government is not in the right. The Opposition will gain nothing by creating an uproar. Rather, we urge them to offer constructive support to the government.

Do you think women voters in Bihar are leaning towards the NDA this time?
Yes, not only women voters but every voter who has witnessed the development and positive changes under NDA rule in Bihar will vote for the NDA. Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents trust for them. The "Modi Guarantee", under the state leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar—who, along with BJP and other allied parties, has made visible changes in Bihar—is widely trusted. Bihar has become a model of women-led development.

Will there be a discussion on Operation Sindoor in Parliament?
What our leaders have said stands true. Government has been transparent about Operation Sindoor's success. The Opposition is trying to manufacture an issue.

Did US President Trump actually mediate between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, as the Opposition claims?
I'm not able to officially comment on such matters. The Opposition's stance is mere political posturing without any basis. They should stop creating unnecessary uproar and focus on being constructive rather than just opposing for opposition's sake.

Since you oversee the Atomic Energy Department, how is India tackling challenges in the sector?
India is on track to meet the target of generating 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, and we are taking steps toward this goal. In addition to progressing in the civil nuclear energy sector, we are considering converting ten decommissioned thermal power plant sites into nuclear power sites for civilian use, aligning with India's ambition to reach 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047.

Are private sector players being actively supported in the nuclear energy sector?
Yes, significant changes are planned through updated regulations and legislation. The government, as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, aims to amend key laws like the Atomic Energy Act and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to encourage private sector participation.

INSIDER TRACK

Diplomatic glitz at Sangh Soiree

Mark your calendars — and perhaps, your diplomatic protocols. If things go as planned, New Delhi's diplomatic circuit may find itself sitting front row at an event hosted not by the Ministry of External Affairs, but by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). In what could be a first, officials from various embassies (with the predictable exception of our western neighbour, Pakistan) are being invited to a three-day lecture series by the RSS. The occasion? The Sangh is gearing up to celebrate 100 years of its existence, and it's kicking things off with lecture marathons in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru. The Delhi edition will open the series at Vigyan Bhawan on August 26, with Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS Sarsanghchalak himself, delivering the inaugural address. "We're reaching out to various embassies to join us in this lecture series and hope they respond positively," said a senior RSS functionary, sounding both hopeful and diplomatic. The idea, it seems, is to bring together diplomats, scholars, and the capital's who's who to talk about "key issues concerning Bharat" — and perhaps to showcase the Sangh's intellectual side. And no, this isn't just another round of speeches and samosas. There's a clear message brewing: "The Sangh's chief lecture will give us a new direction which we are following for a powerful and viksit Bharat," said the functionary, firmly, and the RSS is aiming for soft power points.

Poll plunge for IAS close to Nitish

With 'double engine' governments at the Centre and in Bihar, it hardly took a month to approve the VRS application of 2010 batch IAS officer Dinesh Kumar Rai. He is considered a close confidant of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, and the grapevine in Delhi and Patna suggests that he will contest the upcoming assembly polls on the ruling JD(U) ticket from a constituency in Sahabad district. Incidentally, Rai was scheduled to superannuate from the service in January 2026,but he applied for the VRS on June 13, 2025, and the Union government through the Department of Personnel & Training obliged him with effect from July 15, 2025. At the time of leaving the job, Rai, a Bihar Administrative Service officer promoted to IAS, was serving as Secretary, Revenue and Land Reforms. Earlier, he was also in the CMO.

Fighting radicalisation in prisons

The Modi government has flagged growing radicalisation in prisons as a serious concern and has asked states and UTs to counter it effectively. In a circular, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) urged prison authorities to develop standardised screening tools to assess inmates' behaviour, associations, and ideological leanings at the time of admission. States have been advised to work closely with law enforcement and intelligence agencies to identify inmates who may pose a radical influence on others. The MHA also recommended setting up independent high-security prison complexes to house hardened and radicalised offenders, including terrorists.

Seeking ASI help for Agra Metro

Facing tepid ridership on the newly launched Agra Metro, the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has sought help from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to boost visibility and attract more commuters, particularly tourists. Despite its first corridor partially connecting major landmarks like the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Sikandara, and Mankameshwar Temple, the metro is struggling to draw riders. UPMRC cited low public awareness and limited access to route and service information as key reasons behind the underwhelming response. To fix this, it has requested ASI's support in displaying promotional videos and pamphlets at protected monuments and on the ASI's official website. The aim is to inform both tourists and locals about the metro's connectivity, timings, and convenience.

A slice of civility for the civil service

Well, here's a refreshing memo from the top: bureaucrats must meet real people. Yes, the corridors of power may soon echo with the unfamiliar sound of citizens walking in — not for selfies or ceremonial cups of tea, but for honest-to-goodness conversations about problems, policies, and the odd grievance. This directive comes straight from Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, who seems to have had enough of the "closed-door" culture that has crept into the senior bureaucracy. There's a "perceived reluctance" among many senior officials to meet anyone outside their echo chamber of government colleagues. The keyword here is 'perceived', but one suspects that perception and reality may not be far apart. In a letter now circulating in babudom, Somanathan reminds secretaries of all ministries that meeting members of the public is not optional — and, importantly, should take place within official premises, not in clubs, hotels, or over a quiet drink at the gymkhana. (Yes, someone had to spell that out.) "Such interactions can offer valuable insights into ground realities, help clarify miscommunications, and even lead to better ideas," he gently noted. One can imagine several startled secretaries mentally clearing an hour of their packed schedules. To be fair, the letter acknowledges that senior officers are pressed for time, but argues that even limited engagement with the public can go a long way in bridging gaps between policy and perception. If needed, another official can sit in on the meeting — just in case things get too real.

FTA, reset in ties focus of PM's visit to UK and Maldives

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United Kingdom and the Maldives from July 23 to 26 in a high-stakes diplomatic tour focused on advancing bilateral ties and formalising a major free trade agreement (FTA) with Britain.

"During the visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold wide ranging discussions with Prime Minister Starmer on the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on issues of regional and global importance," External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The centrepiece of the visit on July 23 and 24 is expected to be the formal signing of the India-UK FTA, finalised in May and currently undergoing legal scrubbing by both sides.

The landmark deal aims to double bilateral trade which is currently valued at $60 billion by 2030. It is expected to boost Indian exports of textiles, leather and engineering goods, while slashing tariffs on British whisky, automobiles, and medical devices. Labour-intensive Indian sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, and processed foods are poised to gain a competitive edge.

A key feature of the FTA is an exemption from social security contributions in the UK for Indian workers for three years, under the Double Contribution Convention.

During the UK visit, Modi and Starmer are also expected to review progress under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), focusing on trade, technology, defence, climate cooperation, education, and people-to-people ties.

Modi will then travel to the Maldives on a state visit from July 25 to 26, at the invitation of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu. The Indian Prime Minister will be the Guest of Honour at the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations on July 26, a symbolic gesture signalling a reset in ties after period of strains that ebbed away.

Centre revamps aggregator rules to drive EV shift, boost inclusion

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

IN a move to modernise urban mobility, strengthen the gig economy and promote inclusion, the Centre has overhauled the Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines, authorising states to set annual targets for electric vehicle (EV) adoption in app-based transport fleets.

The revised guidelines, issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), aim to accelerate the transition to sustainable transport and ensure greater inclusion of persons with disabilities.

While the Centre has stopped short of mandating a national EV quota, the new rules require a steady year-on-year increase in the share of EVs in aggregator fleets. State governments are now empowered to set and enforce these targets based on the needs of each state.

The framework also mandates that a portion of aggregator fleets be made accessible to persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). The states can now fix specific quotas for both Divyangjan-friendly vehicles and their representation in the driver workforce.

"In addition to customer- and driver-friendly reforms, the guidelines promote sustainability and inclusion. States will decide annually the number of EVs to be added. Similarly, they will determine how many Divyangjan-friendly vehicle aggregators must operate," a ministry official told TNIE.

States to fix quotas for differently abled in fleet

The framework also mandates that a portion of aggregator fleets be made accessible to persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). The states can now fix specific quotas for both Divyangjan-friendly vehicles and their representation in the driver workforce.

The updated rules also close several regulatory gaps from the previous version. Aggregators will now apply for a single license covering all vehicle types, cars, bikes, and autos, across the entire state, streamlining the compliance process.

To safeguard gig workers, the government has made comprehensive insurance coverage mandatory. Aggregators must provide drivers with a health cover of at least 5 lakh and a term life insurance policy worth 10 lakh. Each passenger trip must also be insured up to 5 lakh.

Then, the guidelines bar aggregators from demanding platform exclusivity. Drivers will be free to operate on multiple platforms, giving them greater control over their time and income.

The new framework also greenlights the use of private (non-commercial) motorcycles for app-based passenger transport and deliveries a move that is expected to transform last-mile connectivity across the country.

States can now permit private bike owners to offer shared mobility services, thus legitimising bike taxis that had previously operated in what could be termed as a legal grey zone.

"Bikes are crucial for last-mile access in areas where cars can't reach. Their effectiveness was clearly seen during the Mahakumbh," an official said.

States have three months to adopt the new guidelines, which signal a major policy shift toward cleaner, more inclusive, and better-regulated urban transport.

Climate crisis changing flash flood map: Study

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

WHAT IS IT?
Sudden inundations caused by extreme rainfall events, typically within very short time frame, due to heavy precipitation
DANGER HOTSPOTS
OVER 5,000 DEATHS ANNUALLY, INFLICTING SIGNIFICANT SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE
Hotspots expanding beyond traditionally vulnerable zones into semi-arid zones of western India, regions previously seen as low-risk, finds study
SHIFT DUE TO INCREASE IN SUB-DAILY PRECIPITATION EVENTS AND RISING TEMPERATURES, ALLOWING ATMOSPHERE TO RETAIN MORE MOISTURE AND TRIGGER INTENSE RAINFALL
Proportion of non-flash flood prone sub-basins with increased rainfall grew from 51% to 66.5% in past two decades, while highly prone areas receive less rainfall

A new study by IIT Gandhinagar has revealed a disturbing shift in India's flash flood geography, warning that climate change is driving the emergence of new flood-prone regions in areas once considered very safe.

Published in the journal Natural Hazards, the study, titled "Drivers of Flash Floods in the Indian Subcontinental River Basins" finds that flash flood hotspots are expanding beyond traditionally vulnerable zones into drier and semi-arid regions.

"Flash floods are sudden inundations caused by extreme rainfall events. They typically occur within a very short time frame, usually within six hours, after heavy precipitation," the researchers noted.

"Characterized by a rapid increase in water flow followed by a quick recession, flash floods are highly unpredictable and can be extremely destructive."

The study observed a marked rise in flash floods across semi-arid zones of western India, regions previously seen as low-risk from the risk if flash foods. It attributes this shift to an increase in sub-daily precipitation events and rising temperatures, which allow the atmosphere to retain more moisture and trigger intense rainfall.

Even sub-basins earlier considered low in susceptibility are now showing significant increases in both precipitation and streamflow. The researchers compared data from 2001 to 2020 with a baseline of 1981–2000 and found a sharp rise in wet hours — a key driver of flash floods — across all Indian river basins not previously categorized as prone.

The study noted that specifically, the proportion of non-flash flood-prone sub-basins with increased rainfall and streamflow grew from 51% to 66.5% in the past two decades.

Similarly, the study notes that the areas currently classified as highly susceptible to flash floods are seeing a reduction in precipitation and streamflow, indicating a potential future shift in flood hotspots. The percentage of wet hours in these zones declined from 50.3% to 48.7%.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), over 40 million hectares of land in India are prone to floods. Flash floods remain one of the deadliest forms of flooding, causing over 5,000 deaths annually and inflicting significant socio-economic and environmental damage. More importantly, flash floods have the highest mortality rate among all flood types including riverine and coastal.

As the climate continues to warm, the study urges policymakers to rethink flood-risk zones and adapt disaster management strategies to this so that they are better prepared.

Submarine Hunters: GRSE to launch 8th and final anti-submarine warship

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE country will mark a major milestone in indigenous shipbuilding on Monday as state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) launches the eighth and final Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).

The launch will be attended by Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy.

This final launch concludes GRSE's contract to deliver eight next-generation ASW SWCs as part of a broader initiative to strengthen India's maritime defence.

The launch is seen significant because of the increasing presence of submarines in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including regular deployments by Chinese and Pakistani naval assets. These vessels are designed to safeguard India's coastline and shallow waters against any threats.

The ASW SWCs are part of a 12,500 crore programme to build 16 shallow water anti-submarine warfare vessels under two contracts awarded in April 2019. GRSE is building eight vessels under a 6,311 crore deal, while Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is constructing the other eight. The vessels from GRSE will form the Arnala-class, named after the lead ship INS Arnala, commissioned in June. The CSL-built ships will be classified as Mahe-class.

INS Arnala, named after the historic coastal fort off Vasai, Maharashtra, reflects India's rich and varied maritime heritage. Measuring 77 meters in length, Arnala is the largest Indian Naval warship powered by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination. It features advanced capabilities for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime missions, mine-laying besides a hist of search and rescue tasks.

The ASW SWCs are expected to replace the aging Abhay-class corvettes-- small warships designed for convoy escort duty--which have been in service since the late 1980s. With over 80% indigenous content, the Arnala-class ships represent a significant step toward self-reliance in defence production, a key goal of the Modi government.

The ships are being built in accordance with the classification standards of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) and under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between GRSE and Larsen & Toubro Shipyard which demonstrates a successful collaboration in domestic defence manufacturing.

SAIF STABBING CASE

The Bangladeshi national held for allegedly stabbing and injuring actor Saif Ali Khan has moved a bail application before a court here claiming he was innocent and that the FIR against him was an "imaginary story".

3 KANWARIYAS KILLED IN ROAD CRASH IN GHAZIABAD

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	26	Mumbai	29	28
Bhopal	29	24	Panaji	29	26
Jaipur	31	26	Patna	36	29
Amritsar	31	27	Lucknow	33	28
Chennai	31	27	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	32	28	Imphal	31	23
Srinagar	30	19	Chandigarh	28	25

Three terrorists trapped as gunfight erupts in Kishtwar

Security forces keep strict surveillance through copters and drones

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A gunfight broke out between terrorists and security forces in the forest area of mountainous Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

Based on specific information about the presence of terrorists, a contingent of police, CRPF and paramilitary personnel launched a joint combing and search operation in Hadal Gal area of Kishtwar, a security official said.

"During the search operation, terrorists fired on the security personnel in the Khankoo forest area located between Dachhan and Nagseni. The fire was returned by the troops, triggering an encounter," he added. The intermittent exchange of gunfire between the two sides continued for some time. Additional troops and surveillance equipment was rushed to the area to tighten the siege and prevent terrorists from escaping from the area.

Security forces were maintaining tight surveillance of the area through helicopters and drones. The specially trained para-commandos are also assisting the troops in the operation.

It is suspected that three Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists are trapped in the area. One of the trapped terrorists is said to be top commander Mohammad Amin alias Jahangir, who is one of the wanted terrorists in the region, as per sources. He carries a reward of ₹ 30 lakh.

This is the second encounter between terrorists and security forces in Kishtwar district this month. On July 2, a similar encounter took place in Chatroo forest area of the district. However, during the three-day long search operation, the trapped terrorists managed to escape.

On May 22, a soldier was killed in gunfight with terrorists at Chatroo area of Kishtwar. Kishtwar, a part of the Jammu region, has witnessed many encounters in the last few years.

Security officials suspect that some highly trained Pakistani terrorists assisted by some locals are hiding in the dense forest area of Kishtwar.

The terrorists, according to security forces, use the dense forest area and caves in the mountain areas as their hideouts. They have also used these hide-outs to launch attacks on security forces and inflict casualties on them.

Forces have launched many anti-militancy operations to clear the district of the terrorists in the past. However, they are yet to succeed.

ENCOUNTERS IN JAMMU IN '25

FEB 26: Soldier injured in encounter with militants near the LoC in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district

MARCH 24: Gunfight breaks out between militants and troops at Saniyal village of Hira Nagar of Kathua

MARCH 28: Four policemen and two militants killed and four security men injured in the encounter in Juthana area of Kathua

APRIL 12: Two militants and an army man killed in three-day long encounter in Kishtwar's Chatroo

APRIL 25: Soldier killed in encounter with militants in Basantgarh area of Udhampur

MAY 22: Soldier killed in encounter with militants in the forest area of Singhpora

JUNE 26: Jaish militant killed in an encounter with troops in forest area of Basantgarh in Udhampur

JULY 20: Encounter starts between militants and security forces in forest area of Kishtwar. Three Jaish militants are trapped

Kin of J&K man abducted by terrorists in Niger seek help

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE family of Ranjeet Singh, a man from Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district who was reportedly abducted by terrorists in Niger a few days ago, has sought the Centre's intervention in securing his release.

According to Ranjeet's wife, Sheela Devi, they lost contact with him on July 15. "I have been trying to contact him since then, but there has been no response," she said. Ranjeet was an employee of an integrated power transmission and distribution firm, where he served as a senior safety officer. Sheela said she also contacted the officials of the company, who told her that there had been a terrorist attack on a construction site where Ranjeet was working and that he had been kidnapped.

"I appeal to the Government of India for my husband's safe return," she said.

According to Niger media, some unidentified gunmen had attacked an army unit guarding a construction site in Dosso, about 130 kilometres from the national capital, Niamey. "In a heinous terror attack on 15 July in Niger's Dosso region, two Indian nationals tragically lost their lives and one was abducted," the Indian embassy in Niger wrote on X.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah has appealed to the MEA to urgently intervene in the matter.

3 BKI operatives held for grenade attacks on police posts in Punjab, Haryana

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Police has busted a Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terror module, being operated by foreign-based handlers Maninder Billa and Manu Agwan, with the arrest of three its operatives involved in grenade attacks on police posts at Badshahpur in Patiala and Ajimgarh in Haryana.

The three accused have been identified as Sandeep Singh alias Deepu, resident of Badshahpur, Harpreet Singh alias Jagga, resident of Harchandpura, Patiala, and Harmanpreet Singh alias Preet, resident of Gurdialpura in the same district, Punjab DGP **Gaurav Yadav** said on Sunday, adding, the operation was jointly conducted by Counter Intelligence (Patiala) and State Special Operation Cell (SAS Nagar).

Grenade attacks were reported at Police Post Badshahpur on April 1 this year and Police Post Ajimgarh in Haryana on April 6. Following the incidents, operatives of BKI — Happy Passia, Manu Agwan, and Gopi Nawasherian — had used social media to claim the responsibility for the acts.

"By busting this module, Punjab Police has solved both incidents of grenade attacks on police establishments in the state," Yadav said, adding that both handlers were working on the directions of terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda.

Yadav said the module had received logistical and financial support and further probe is on to trace forward and backward linkages in the case. Preliminary investigation has also suggested the module was actively planning further attacks on police establishments in Punjab, he added.

Assistant Inspector General of Police (Counter Intelligence) Patiala Simrat Kaur said, under interrogation, the accused confessed that the attacks were masterminded by their associate identified as Gurpreet Singh alias Babbu, who is lodged in Patiala Jail and currently in police custody. She added that probe has revealed mastermind Gurpreet Singh alias Babbu had promised Sandeep Singh alias Deepu ₹3-4 lakh for participating in the Badshahpur attack, while, Harmanpreet Singh alias Preet was paid ₹10,000 for accompanying in the Ajimgarh attack.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
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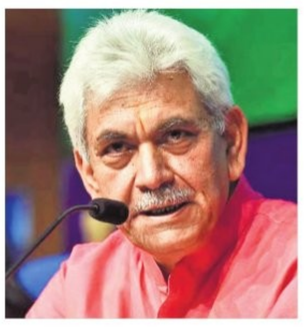
L-G'S Sainik Sahayta Kendra established

In a major relief for soldiers confronting civil issues, Jammu and Kashmir Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha has approved the establishment of his Sainik Sahayta Kendra. The kendra aims to provide systematic grievance redressal support to those serving in the Indian Armed Forces and the CAPF posted in the union territory of J&K as well as those serving in other parts of the country who originally belong to this place. Now, the soldiers would not need to run from pillar to post to have their civilian grievances addressed. The kendra would serve as a single-window platform for receiving, assessing and facilitating the redressal of grievances.



Wular Lake blooms with lotus after three decades

After nearly three long decades, lotus flowers are blooming in Wular Lake — Asia's largest freshwater lake located in J&K's Bandipora district — again. The locals said the lotus, known by locals as nadru, disappeared after the 1992 floods, which caused damage to the rich ecosystem of the lake by depositing a large quantity of silt that buried the lotus vegetation. Spread over nearly 200 square kilometres and located between the towns of Bandipora and Sopore in north Kashmir, the lake was once a major source of income for hundreds of families dependent on their livelihood on Asia's largest freshwater lake.

Cong to take statehood protest to New Delhi

As the monsoon session of Parliament gets under way, the Congress has decided to up the ante for the restoration of statehood to J&K. The party is planning to take its protest for the cause to the Capital. Its J&K leaders have called for a 'Delhi Chalo' programme on July 21. "We will stage a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on July 22 to press for the full-fledged restoration of statehood to J&K," said J&K Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir. He reiterated that the party is against the dual power system in J&K. The Congress has asked PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to fulfil their promise of restoring statehood to J&K.

Lekhi injured in Kailash Yatra; airlift delayed by bad weather

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

BJP leader and former Union Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi sustained a serious back injury after falling from a horse in Darchen, Tibet, during the second batch of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. She has since been brought back to Gunji, in Uttarakhand, with evacuation to Delhi delayed due to inclement weather.

Lekhi, who was part of the second group of Indian pilgrims, fell while on horseback during the journey in Tibet, making it impossible for her to continue. She was swiftly rescued by personnel of the 7th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Lipulekh Pass and subsequently brought to the ITBP camp in Gunji.

"She is currently under medical supervision at the Gunji camp. According to ITBP doctors, she is stable and fit for air travel, and is expected to be flown directly to Delhi on Monday, weather permitting," said an administrative official.

While initial plans involved airlifting Lekhi to Dehradun from Nabhidhang, she has reportedly expressed a preference to return directly to Delhi. More details are awaited.

Only fines, no criminal cases: C'garh passes new bill for ease of doing biz

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh has passed 'Jan Vishwas Bill' in the Assembly marking a significant step towards ease of living and doing business in the state.

With a focus to lessen non-essential legal burdens and encouraging voluntary compliance, Chhattisgarh becomes only the second state in the country to pass the Bill that replaces criminal penalties with fines for minor violations.

The new Act will aim to decriminalise minor technical violations by citizens and business owners — many of which stemmed from outdated British-era laws. Touted as a historic reform, the bill intends towards securing trust-based governance prioritising transparency with accountability between the government and its citizens and trade.

"In a paradigm shift, the state in one attempt has eased the burden of the judicial system by cutting down on avoidable litigation, while sparing citizens from facing criminal proceedings for minor lapses. As many as 163 provisions across eight Acts were amended and decriminalised as part of doing away with the colonial legacy. It will also check corruption and needless harassment", a government spokesperson told this newspaper.

Some of the Acts to be amended through the bill include Urban Administration Department laws, Nagar Tatha Gram Nivesh Act, Society Registration Act, Chhattisgarh Industrial Relations Act, Chhattisgarh Excise Act, and the Chhattisgarh Cooperative Society Act.

"On the lines of the Indian Judicial Code brought under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, Chhattisgarh has now become the second state after MP to pass the Jan Vishwas Bill. It's an important step towards achieving the goals based on 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat' theme," said Vishnu Deo Sai, Chhattisgarh CM.

Several Acts amended

Some of the Acts to be amended through the bill include Urban Administration Department laws, Nagar Tatha Gram Nivesh Act, Society Registration Act, Chhattisgarh Industrial Relations Act, Chhattisgarh Excise Act, and the Chhattisgarh Cooperative Society Act.

China starts building mega dam amid concerns in India

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

CHINA has begun constructions for a mega hydro-electric project on river Yarlung Tsangpo in the Nyingchi region of south-eastern Tibet.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang attended the project commencement ceremony on Saturday, according to Chinese state-run media. Beijing approved the multi-billion-dollar project in 2023. The hydro-electric project, said to be the largest of its kind in the project, will generate 60,000 MW of power. Yarlung Tsangpo enters Arunachal Pradesh as

Siang and becomes Brahmaputra in Assam before flowing into Bangladesh. Amid concerns that China might 'dry up' the Brahmaputra, restricting its flow at the hydropower dam upstream, Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma have expressed contrasting views on the project in the recent past.

Khandu described the project as a ticking 'water bomb' and an existential threat for the people of his state and their livelihoods. He said the dam was a matter of grave concern as China is not a signatory to the international water treaty, and the neighbour on the north-eastern border cannot be trusted.

No one knows what China might do. It could even use this as a sort of water bomb... Suppose the dam is built and they suddenly release water, the entire Siang belt would be destroyed.

Pema Khandu, Arunachal Chief Minister

"No one knows what China might do. It could even use this as a sort of water bomb... Suppose the dam is built and they suddenly release water, the entire Siang belt would be destroyed," Khandu had said.

In the light of this threat, he said the Arunachal government, in consultations with the Centre, had conceived the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project as a defence mechanism, as well as for water security. While Khandu is also apprehensive about China's possible attempts to dry up the Siang and Brahmaputra rivers, the Assam Chief Minister took it easy. He said China contributes only 30-35% of Brahmaputra's total flow, mostly through glacial melt and limited Tibetan rainfall.

"The remaining 65-70% is generated within India, thanks to torrential monsoon rainfall in Arunachal, Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya; major tributaries like Subansiri, Lohit, Kameng, Manas, Dhansiri, Jia-Bharali, Kopili; and additional inflows from the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia Hills via rivers such as Krishnai, Digaru, and Kulsi," Sarma had posted on X on June 2.

Farewell to Fauja Singh with full state honours

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

Started his career at the ripe age of 89

His son Harvinder lit the funeral pyre while the gun salute was sounded in tribute. It is worth noting that Singh's career as a marathon runner began when he was 89. He went on to become a global icon, gaining the nickname 'Turbaned Tornado' for his endurance and athleticism.

THE world's oldest marathoner, the 114-year-old Fauja was cremated on Sunday at his native village Beas near Jalandhar with state honours. His son Harvinder Singh lit the funeral pyre while the gun salute was sounded in tribute.

The Punjab government announced renaming the village school after the age-defying athlete besides installing his statues at the stadium in the village and the sports college in Jalandhar. Punjab governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and leaders from across parties attended his cremation, along with the entire village that gathered to pay homage to the Fauja. Prime Minister Modi, too, sent words of praise for the runner.

"That he (Fauja Singh) took up long-distance running at a very advanced age speaks volumes of not only his physical fitness, but more importantly, his mental strength and resilience," read the condolence letter from the Prime Minister. Earlier, the mortal body of Fauja Singh were kept in a glass casket at his village home with his portrait placed next to it. Around noon, it was carried to the cremation ground outside the village. The family expressed pride in the achievements of its beloved centenarian.

Punjab Governor Kataria, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, minister Mohinder Bhagat,Congress MLAs Pargat Singh, Rana Gurjeet Singh, Sukhwinder Singh Kotli, Hardev Singh Ladi Sherowalia, senior Akali Dal leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema, Jalandhar DCP Himanshu Aggarwal and Jalandhar Range DIG Naveen Singla placed wreaths in homage to the runner. Kataria recalled how the Fauja walked with him during a 'Nasha Mukti' yatra. He said after walking a kilometre, he asked him to stop but to his surprise, the Fauja insisted on walking on.

Bhagwant Mann expressed profound grief over the marathoner's demise. He said the sports fraternity will remain forever indebted to his legacy, taking athletics to new heights at international arena, defying his age: "The void created by his death is difficult to be fill in near future." Recognising his immense contribution, the state government will rename the school in his village after him besides installing his statues at the village stadium and Sports College, Jalandhar.

Singh's career as a marathon runner began when he was 89. He would go on to become a global icon, gaining the nickname 'Turbaned Tornado' for his endurance and athleticism.

After two-decade wait, 400-year-old twin forts in Palamau set for facelift

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE long-pending restoration of the historic twin forts located inside the Palamu Tiger Reserve has finally received a government go-ahead, ending an over two-decade wait marked by bureaucratic delays and forest clearance issues.

According to PTR Deputy Director, Prajesh Kant Jena, a detailed project report for the conservation of the over 400-year-old forts, built by the Chero dynasty, has been prepared and is awaiting final inspection by agencies under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Inside in deep forests on the banks of the Auranga River around 30 km from Medininagar, the two forts — Purana Quila and Naya Quila — were built at the beginning of the Mughal period by the kings of Chero dynasty. "All the hurdles, which were coming in the way of its restoration, have been cleared and the stakeholders have already given a go-ahead to the project," said Jena. Now, they have to find out a proper party or agency which can do justice to this cultural heritage, he added.

Jena informed that the DPR was prepared by the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development. Now, the process of inviting tenders for restoration and conservation of the twin-forts will be started, once verification of the DPR by the Building Construction Department is finished. "It's a dilapidated building of mediaeval architecture, built in 1628, it needs technical intervention. In 2005 and 2011, proposals had come and ASI had visited the place, but somehow, it could not take off," said Jena.

To make people aware of the architectural beauty and historic significance of the structures, Jena and his team launched a comics-based campaign in 2024. Then in 2025, a meeting was chaired by state tourism minister Sudivya Kumar, attended by finance minister Radha Krishna Kishore, and secretaries of the forest and tourism departments and it was decided to initiate the tendering process and assign the task to a party for the development of site, according to an official release. The restoration work is estimated to cost between ₹40-50 crore.

Nine
shot dead at pool bar in Ecuador tourist city

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	23	SNY	Los Angeles	27	17	SNY
Colombo	31	27	LC	Melbourne	16	6	SNY
Dhaka	32	27	LR	Moscow	28	16	LC
Dubai	44	35	SNY	New York	32	22	SNY
Houston	35	26	SNY	Singapore	34	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	23	SNY	Toronto	29	15	LC
London	30	19	TDS	Washington	36	25	SNY

1 CIVILIAN DEAD

Egypt thwarted 'terrorist' plot, kills 2 suspected militants

CAIRO

EGYPT said Sunday two suspected militants were shot dead and a civilian killed in a shootout with security forces during a raid in Cairo that authorities said thwarted a "terrorist" plot.

The raid followed recent intelligence that the Hasm movement, said to be linked with the Muslim Brotherhood, was "preparing to revive its activities and commit hostile operations targeting security and economic facilities" inside Egypt.

Police raided a "militant hideout" in Cairo's densely populated neighbourhood of Bulaq al-Dakrour, the ministry said in its statement, without disclosing when it occurred.

During the raid, two suspects "began firing randomly at the forces and the surrounding area", resulting in their deaths and that of a passerby, it added.

The statement added that authorities had identified five leaders of the plot besides those killed, all of whom had received life sentences in absentia for a series of attacks that rocked Egypt in the aftermath of the 2013 overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

Following Morsi's ouster, the Muslim Brotherhood group was outlawed in Egypt and many of its members were imprisoned, while others moved to different countries including Turkey and Qatar.

Hasm, once blamed for a series of assassination attempts and bombings between 2016 and 2019, had largely faded from public view. *AP*

85 Palestinians killed at Gaza aid site as Israel widens evacuation orders

Widespread outrage over mass shooting on people waiting for aid trucks; over 150 injured

DEIR AL-BALAH

AT least 85 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach food at locations across Gaza on Sunday, the territory's Health Ministry said, on the deadliest day yet for aid-seekers in over 21 months of war.

There was new alarm as Israel's military issued evacuation orders for parts of central Gaza, one of the few areas where it has rarely operated with ground troops and where many international organisations trying to distribute aid are located. One group said several offices were told to evacuate immediately. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

The largest death toll was in devastated northern Gaza, where living conditions are especially dire. At least 79 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach aid entering through the Zikim crossing with Israel, Zaher al-Waheidi, head of the Health Ministry's records department, told The Associated Press.

The UN World Food Program said 25 trucks with aid had entered for "starving communities" when it encountered massive crowds.

A UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to comment on the incident to the media, said Israeli forces opened fire toward crowds who tried to take food from the convoy.

Footage taken by the UN and shared with the AP showed Palestinian men running as automatic gunfire was heard. "Suddenly, tanks surrounded us and trapped us as gunshots and strikes rained down. We were trapped for around two hours," said Ehab Al-Zei, who had been waiting for flour and said he hadn't eaten bread in 15 days. He spoke over the din of people carrying the dead and wounded. "I will never go back again. Let us die of hunger, it's better."

Nafiz Al-Najjar, who was injured, said tanks and drones targeted people "randomly" and he saw his cousin and others shot dead. Israel's military said soldiers shot at a gathering of thousands of Palestinians in northern Gaza who posed a threat, and it was aware of some casualties. But it said the numbers reported by officials in Gaza were far higher than its initial investigation found.

Meanwhile, the new evacuation orders cut access between the central city of Deir al-Balah and the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis in the narrow territory. The military also reiterated evacuation orders for northern Gaza.

The United Nations has been in contact with Israeli authorities to clarify whether UN facilities in the southwestern part of Deir al-Balah are included in the evacuation order, according to a UN official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media. The official said that in previous instances, UN facilities were spared from evacuation orders.

On its part, the IDF said it fired 'warning shots' to clear an immediate threat but contested the death toll, saying the numbers are exaggerated. *AP*

Palestinians mourn their relatives who were killed while trying to reach aid trucks entering northern Gaza through the Zikim crossing with Israel in Gaza City | AP

Pope urges immediate end to 'barbarity'

Castel Gandolfo: Pope Leo XIV slammed the "barbarity" of the war in Gaza on Sunday and urged against the "indiscriminate use of force", just days after a deadly strike by Israel's military on a Catholic church. "I once again ask for an immediate end to the barbarity of the war and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict," Leo said at the end of the Angelus prayer at Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer residence near Rome. The pope, who spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the morning after Thursday's strike, spoke of his "deep sorrow" for the attack on the Holy Family Church. The church sheltered 600 displaced people, mostly children and those with special needs.

Bedouin fighters, right, gather as Syrian government security forces, left, block them from entering Sweida province, in Busra al-Harir village, southern Syria | AP

Armed Bedouins leave Druze city after clashes

MAZRAA

SYRIA's armed Bedouin clans on Sunday announced that they had withdrawn from the Druze-majority city of Sweida following over a week of clashes and a U.S.-brokered ceasefire, as humanitarian aid convoys started to enter the battered southern city.

The clashes between militias of the Druze religious minority and the Sunni Muslim clans killed hundreds and threatened to unravel Syria's already fragile postwar transition. Israel also launched dozens of airstrikes in the Druze-majority Sweida province, targeting government forces who had effectively sided with the Bedouins.

The clashes also led to a series of targeted sectarian attacks against the Druze community, followed by revenge attacks against the Bedouins.

A series of tit-for-tat kidnappings sparked the clashes in various towns and villages in the province, which later spread to the city. Government forces were redeployed to halt renewed fighting that erupted Thursday, before withdrawing again. Interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who was more sympathetic to the Bedouins, had tried to appeal to the Druze community while remaining critical of the militias. He later urged the Bedouins to leave the city, saying that they "cannot replace the role of the state in handling the country's affairs and restoring security."

"We thank the Bedouins for their heroic stances but demand they fully commit to the ceasefire and comply with the state's orders," he said in an address broadcast Saturday.

Dozens of armed Bedouin fighters alongside other clans from around the country who came to support them remained on the outskirts of the city and were cordoned off by government security forces and military police. They blame the clashes on the Druze factions loyal to spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri and accuse them of harming Bedouin families.

"We will not leave until he turns himself in alongside those with him who tried to stir sedition. And only then will we go home." Khaled al-Mohammad, who came to the southern province alongside other tribesman from the eastern Deir al-Zour province, told The Associated Press.

Japan coalition loses upper house majority; PM at risk

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's coalition lost its upper house majority in elections on Sunday, local media projected, in a debacle that could end his short premiership.

Ishiba's governing coalition was already humiliatingly forced into a minority government after lower house elections in October, shortly after he became prime minister and called the snap vote.

Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its partner Komeito won around 41 of the 125 upper house seats contested on Sunday, short of the 50 needed to retain a majority, Nippon TV and TBS projected, based on exit polls.

Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba | AFP

National broadcaster NHK projected that the LDP could win anything between 27 and 41 seats and Komeito between five and 12, making retaining a majority "difficult". The right-wing populist party Sanseito was meanwhile projected to have made strong gains, winning between 10 and 22 seats, adding to the two it already holds in the 248-seat chamber.

Ishiba, 68, a self-avowed policy "geek" seen as a safe pair of hands when he won the LDP leadership in September, was tight-lipped late Sunday about his future.

"It's a difficult situation, and we have to take it very humbly and seriously," Ishiba told broadcaster NHK. Asked about his future, he said only that he "cannot speak lightly of it". "We can't do anything until we see the final results, but we want to be very aware of our responsibility," Ishiba added. *AFP*

Putin meets Khamenei's top adviser Larijani for nuke talks

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin held a surprise meeting with Ali Larijani, top adviser to Iran's supreme leader on nuclear issues, to discuss Tehran's nuclear programme in the Kremlin on Sunday.

Moscow has a cordial relationship with Iran's clerical leadership and provides crucial backing for Tehran but did not swing forcefully behind its partner even after the United States joined Israel's massive bombing campaign on Iran in June. Larijani "conveyed assessments of the escalating situation in the Middle East and around the Iranian nuclear programme", Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the unannounced meeting.

Putin had expressed Russia's "well-known positions on how to stabilize the situation in the region and on the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear programme", he added.

Separately, a German diplomatic source told AFP on Sunday that Britain, France and Germany are planning to hold fresh talks with Iran on its nuclear programme in the coming days. Iran's Tasnim news agency also reported that Tehran had agreed to hold talks with the three European countries, citing an unnamed source.

Last week, Russia had slammed a story by US news outlet Axios citing anonymous sources that said Putin had "encouraged" Iran to accept a deal with the United States that would prevent the Islamic republic from enriching uranium.

Iran has consistently denied seeking a nuclear weapon, while defending its "legitimate rights" to the peaceful use of atomic energy. *AFP*

European powers plan fresh nuke talks

BERLIN: Britain, France and Germany are planning to hold fresh talks with Iran on its nuclear programme in the coming days, a German diplomatic source told AFP on Sunday. The European powers, known as the E3, "are in contact with Iran to schedule further talks for the coming week", the source said, following warnings from the trio that international sanctions against Iran could be reactivated if Tehran does not resume negotiations. Iran agrees to talks with three European countries, reports Tasnim.

Russia open to peace but insists on terms: Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is open to peace with Ukraine but achieving its goals remains a priority, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Sunday, days after US President Donald Trump gave Moscow a 50-day deadline to agree to a ceasefire or face tougher sanctions.

Peskov and other Russian officials have repeatedly rejected accusations from Kyiv and its Western partners of stalling peace talks. Meanwhile, Moscow continues to intensify its long-range attacks on Ukrainian cities, launching more drones in a single night than it did during some entire months in 2024, and analysts say the barrages are likely to escalate.

"President (Vladimir) Putin has repeatedly spoken of his desire to bring the Ukrainian settlement to a peaceful conclusion as soon as possible. This is a long process, it requires effort, and it is not easy," Peskov told state TV reporter Pavel Zarubin. "The main thing for us is to achieve our goals. Our goals are clear," he added.

The Kremlin has insisted that any peace deal should see Ukraine withdraw from the four regions that Russia illegally annexed in September 2022, but never fully captured. *AP*

UK pledges to halve sewage pollution

LONDON

THE UK government on Sunday promised to halve sewage pollution caused by water companies by 2030, after the number of serious contamination incidents in England was revealed to have risen by 60 percent in a year. Privatised in 1989, UK water companies have been under attack over the discharge of significant quantities of sewage into rivers, lakes and the sea.

Environment Secretary Steve Reed said water industry regulator Ofwat, which is reportedly facing abolition, was "clearly failing". "It's failed everybody. It's failed customers, we saw those huge bill rises. It's failed the environment," he told the BBC. A review will advise government on improving water industry's performance. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

FIRES SCORCH 422 HECTARES IN N SUMATRA

Wildfires have burned 422 hectares of land in Padang Lawas, North Sumatra, over the past two days amid the dry season, officials said Sunday. Firefighters are still battling the blazes, which hit Sihapas Barumun, Barumun, and Aek Nabara Barumun subdistricts on July 18–19. Most damage occurred in Gulungan Village (400 ha), with smaller fires in Marenu and Sibuhuan villages. No casualties were reported. Earlier in July, fires also hit a protected forest near Lake Toba's Tele observation tower, but were successfully extinguished.

SINGAPORE

MIGRANT WORKER PROGRAMMES BEGIN

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) partners with Hope Initiative Alliance to offer cultural exchanges and skills courses for migrant workers, benefiting 4,000 workers and 1,000 locals annually. Programs include heritage tours, language classes, and peer support, aiming to build inclusion and support ahead of SG60 celebrations.

THAILAND

MONKS BLAMED FOR BUDDHISM'S DECLINE

A National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) Poll conducted July 14–16, 2025, found 76% of Thais believe Buddhism's decline stems from misconduct by monks, including scandals involving drugs, sex, and materialism. Many also blame greed, consumerism, and lack of temple transparency. While 58% said their trust in monks has dropped, 69% still have faith in Buddhism. Over 80% support criminal penalties for monks who break monastic rules. Opinions were more mixed on punishing laypeople or those who parody Buddhism.

Heavy rains in South Korea leave 17 dead and 11 others missing

SEOUL

HEAVY rain in South Korea has killed at least 17 people in recent days, government records showed Sunday, while 11 remain unaccounted for in the intense downpours.

South Korea typically experiences monsoon rains in July and is usually well-prepared. But this week, the country's southern regions were hit with some of the heaviest hourly rainfall on record, according to official data.

There was also a dangerous deluge in the north early Sunday, with close to 170 millimetres (6.7 inches) of rain hitting Gapyeong county in Gyeonggi province, east of the capital Seoul, leaving at least two dead and five missing.

The number of casualties rose throughout the day as bodies of those previously reported missing — many swept away in landslides — were recovered. A woman in her 70s was killed when her house collapsed in a landslide, while the body of a man in his 40s was found near a bridge after he drowned, Yonhap news agency reported.

The total number of deaths from the five-day deluge now stands at at least 17, with 11 missing, according to interior ministry data as of Sunday evening. *AFP*

Cars damaged by floodwater along river due to heavy rain in Gapyeong county | AFP

EXPRESS READ

SL sacks intel chief over 2019 bombings

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's police commission has dismissed Nilantha Jayawardena, former head of intelligence, for failing to act on warnings before the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 279 people. A disciplinary inquiry found him guilty of negligence. Despite early alerts, he failed to prevent the attacks targeting churches and hotels. Jayawardena was previously demoted, later suspended, and ordered to pay damages.

Congo, Rwanda rebels sign ceasefire pact

DAKAR: Congo and Rwanda-backed rebels signed a ceasefire declaration in Qatar, hailed by the African Union as a major peace milestone. The conflict, rooted in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, has killed over 6 million and is fueled by eastern Congo's vast mineral wealth. The US-backed deal aims for peace by August 18, but rebel withdrawal remains disputed.

₹45,350 CR have been raised through initial public offerings (IPOs) in the first half of 2025

Want to buy Tesla? Know finance options

Lenders & insurers are offering financing, insurance solutions for those planning to purchase their dream EV

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LAST week, Tesla launched its Model Y in India, starting at ₹59.89 lakh (ex-showroom). Initially available in Mumbai, Delhi, and Gurugram, the SUV is offered in two battery variants -- a 60 kWh version with a WLTP range of 500 km and a 75 kWh long-range version offering 622 km. Despite higher pricing due to import duties and logistics, the buzz around Tesla's entry remains strong.

For those planning to own a Tesla, it's worth noting that lenders and insurers have already stepped forward to offer financing and insurance solutions.

Financing Options

Kotak Mahindra Prime (KMPL) has positioned itself as Tesla's preferred financier in India. KMPL has stated its intention to offer specially curated car finance schemes for Tesla EV buyers. While specific details of these financing options are reportedly still being finalised, KMPL has integrated dedicated car financing options directly into Tesla India's online portal and mobile app, aiming to enhance accessibility to Tesla ownership.

Shahrukh Todiwala, MD & CEO of KMPL, remarked, "Tesla has redefined mobility with its cutting-edge technology. Its entry into India marks a pivotal moment for the country's automobile sector as it shifts toward greener alternatives."

Although other banks and lenders have not yet publicly announced specific Tesla financing options, it's important to remember that several banks already provide special EV car loans. Generally, financing options are available for both salaried and self-employed individuals. Salaried individuals can typically avail EV loans up to three times their annual salary, while for self-employed individuals, the amount can extend up to six times their annual earnings.

Insurance Options

On the insurance front, key players such as ACKO, Zurich Kotak, and Liberty General Insurance have unveiled strategic collaborations tailored for Tesla buyers. Zurich Kotak General Insurance has introduced EV Protect, a specialised add-on available under its existing 'Car Secure' policy, specifically designed for electric vehicles. EV Protect is crafted to address the evolving needs of the mobility landscape and the unique concerns of EV owners, providing coverage for essential components like the battery, motor, and charger, including fixed charging units.

In addition to providing the mandatory Third-Party Protection (as per the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988), the policy offers comprehensive coverage. It is specifically designed to cover the EV's Battery Management System (BMS), motor, and charger against unforeseen issues such as power surges, short circuits, water damage, and even damage to charging equipment caused by theft or rodent attacks.

Personal Accident cover is also included as part of the policy. Liberty General Insurance states it has developed a suite of precisely calibrated protection plans that 'complement Tesla's engineering and performance excellence while anticipating the distinct needs of EV users.

' Its insurance policy offers comprehensive coverage for essential charging infrastructure, including cables, wall-mounted units, and adaptors. They provide an add-on cover to safeguard the battery with specialised coverage supporting repair and replacement, ensuring long-term battery performance and peace of mind throughout the customer's ownership journey.

IN CONVERSATION

PRABHJEET SINGH
President, Uber India

'We are open to all pricing models that help our drivers'

RIDE-hailing Uber, which is facing heat from Rapido with its driver-friendly monthly platform fee model, says it's open to any model that helps drivers who number 1.4 million now. The San Francisco-based rider app entered the country in 2012 with just one product in one city and today boasts of close to a dozen offerings across 125 cities, most of which are locally developed and unique to this market. Uber India president **Prabhjeet Singh** tells **Benn Kochuveedan** that it grew a whopping 40% in terms of driver additions from 1 million in 2023 to 1.4 million in 2024.

Your rival Rapido with its monthly platform model as against your 30% commission model from each ride is drawing a lot of attention forcing Ola to follow suit. What is your approach to this pricing model and what will be the impact on your revenue if switched to this one?
We are open to all pricing models that help our driver partners. In fact, we are testing a model that's based on a monthly fee model in some cities. All our services are based on the feedback from customers and our driver partners. That we've added 0.4 million new driver partners in 2024—from 1 million in the previous year to 1.4 million—is a testimony to the success of our business model. The way we operate is not necessarily about what others do. What we care for is our partners' profitability and choices. This is a competitive market and we are continuously innovating--whether it's our features, or the way we work with drivers. We offer different operating models to our partners. For example, our auto business runs on a subscription model, we also offer different models in some cities for cabs. There is no one uniform answer, that's the power of a very diverse business and you literally can actually customise according to market demands.

What we want to make sure is that irrespective of the way drivers engage with our platform, their earnings should be fair, stable, and transparent. Yes, multiple pricing models are in the market and we'll continue to iterate with drivers to ensure that they have choices.

India business is growing strong, we continue to have a very sustainable business, and we're reinvesting profits from one part of the business to other parts

You've nearly a dozen products here. How many of them are profitable?
A very large percentage of our products are profitable. We don't report product-level profitability but at the end of the day the fact that we are growing rapidly means we are running a profitable business. We make enough money to reinvest in other new products. Our disciplined operations allow us to reinvest in categories which are future markets. India business is growing strong, we continue to have a very sustainable business, and we're reinvesting profits from one part of the business to other parts.

How is Uber Green doing? What's preventing its faster adoption?
As the largest ride-hailing platform we must lead the industry by being a catalyst. For more EVs to come to our platform, OEMs have to come together, financing has to improve, more fleet partners with EVs have to come forward, and finally consumers have to opt for a green car which is costlier than a normal ride. We launched Uber Green about two years ago and it is now live in five cities, including Mumbai and over 20,000 EVs are on our network now. At the end of the day, it comes down to an economic choice for the driver. Pricing is the biggest speed bump. Ride-hailing vehicles tend to run longer, they need a certain range, price points need to be lower, and there must be the right charging infrastructure. So, we are trying to solve by working with fleet partners, recognising that they will be able to make those investments in creating captive hubs. Also, the resale market for EVs is still to fully play out.

Many of your services like Ubermoto, Uber Shuttle don't have licences in many cities?
Transport is a concurrent subject and every state has its own rules and regulations. As we innovate and pilot new services, we simultaneously work with respective state administrations and educate them on the need to give customers mobility choices.

MONEY-WISE

WHEN ARE ULIPS THE RIGHT CHOICE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
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(Views expressed here are personal)

IN the previous column, we reviewed a case where a ULIP might have been a more appropriate product given the temperament of the investor. Compulsive spenders are another category who could benefit from investing in a ULIP rather than a more liquid product that they can easily redeem and squander the proceeds.

A more recent case I remember is that of a young couple, both well employed in the IT sector and earning handsomely, but somehow perpetually facing a liquidity crunch whenever a payment commitment became due. This forced them to keep redeeming their mutual fund investments at frequent intervals, thus robbing their portfolio of the crucial compounding element that boosts returns.

Clearly, their problem was not one on the supply side as they earned well and their cash inflows were pretty impressive. Their problem area was their inability to control cash outflows, especially avoidable capital commitments like costly club memberships that they never ended up using more than a couple of times. However, their opting for not just such a capital commitment but also 'easy' EMI installments to pay it further compounded their problems as the interest rates levied on them were abnormally high. Ever since they shifted to a ULIP a few years ago, there has been at least some cap on their expenses as it is not quite as readily redeemable as a mutual fund. In such cases, the limited liquidity for the first few years actually works as an advantage for compulsive spenders.

A unique feature of a ULIP is the flexibility it offers an investor to switch between equity and debt, depending on market conditions without incurring any tax liability on the switch in and switch out. With a well-qualified advisor whose asset allocation skills are superior, this product can be used optimally to enhance returns or protection, depending on the objective.

Alongside, a ULIP also offers a Life Cover benefit which can be flexed if one wishes, on reaching different life-cycle stage milestones. Another deal sweetener is that ULIP premiums are eligible for a tax deduction under Section 80C for those still using the old Income Tax scheme. Furthermore, the returns received on maturity are exempt from income tax under Section 10(10D) of the Income-tax Act provided the premium paid per subscriber in a family was ₹2,50,000.

In the case of a ULIP too, the objective should be to stay invested over a long-time horizon and not the minimum mandatory 5-year lock-in period. With the right allocation mix based on a long-term goal or objective, the returns over a 10-to-12-year period can quite often be better than anticipated.

Having observed investor behaviour at close quarters, I have noticed that ULIPs usually inculcate a forced sense of discipline into those investors who are best suited for this product. More importantly, it ensures that they do not barter their long-term goals and objectives to fulfill their near-term needs and desires. And that to my mind, is the deal clincher for such investors.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO UNDERSTAND BIASES IN INFORMATION

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

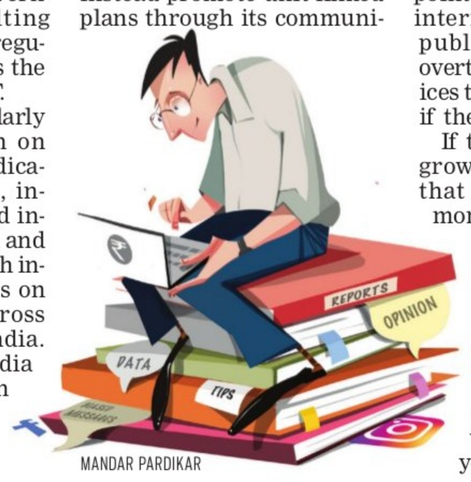
YOUR path to successful investing in your life is directly proportional to your knowledge. As you embark on your quest to learn more about the financial world, it is equally important to understand the biases that influence the information you receive. The future direction of interest rates and inflation influences your money today. You may want to understand it better every day. There is a possibility that you may watch a video that explains a government policy decision. You can watch a reel or a short video that provides just the information, or a long-form interview in a video podcast. Some of you may choose to read the information on news websites or read an elaborate editorial in a publication.

A lot of the commentary you read online or in the press is affected by the political biases of creators or writers. Some economists and analysts are pro-government, while others are anti-government. You need to focus on the commentary that is loyal to the data rather than any political agenda. Credible, fact-based writing could include information cited from competent research studies. These could include governments, global consulting firms, the RBI, or other regulatory bodies, as well as the World Bank and the IMF.

The government regularly publishes information on key macroeconomic indicators, including growth, industrial production, and inflation. The World Bank and the IMF regularly publish international perspectives on the growth outlook across countries, including India. The Reserve Bank of India puts out information on the factors that influence inflation and the economic growth outlook. Companies publish a significant amount of quarterly data on their financial performance. There are presentations and transcripts of conference calls with analysts, providing a comprehensive perspective on a sector or business. Any commentary that cites such published information and puts out a view could be credible.

The other bias is in the information itself. So, if you are subscribing to a newsletter by a company or a publication, you must understand the motive of that business. A mutual fund will often emphasise passive investing and overlook other avenues of investment.

Similarly, an insurance company will not inform you about mutual funds but will instead promote unit-linked plans through its communication. A stockbroker will push you to trade more, as their commissions are linked to the number of trades you do. They may be interested in your financial well-being, but they will not sacrifice their business interests to put out the whole picture in front of you. As a result, you need to understand the content that product manufacturers publish in the financial services space.



MANDAR PARDIKAR

Additionally, there are investment and trading recommendations. Research teams at stockbrokers typically issue these. Usually, the number of 'buy' ratings is higher than that of 'sell'. Those in the financial services industry do not like to present a too negative picture. While there are restrictions on making specific recommendations or guaranteeing any return on financial services companies, you will rarely see them criticising any government policy.

What should you do

You need to make the right choice in your reading material before making those right investments. Focus on data, facts, and information-based communication more than that related to any specific product category or viewpoint. Put together a mix of international and national publications that do not overtly sell products or services to you. Opinions are fine if they are based on facts.

If they point towards slow growth and high inflation, that is bad news for your money. Conversely, if they point towards faster growth and low inflation; that is good news. In the world of endless scrolling from bottom to top, you need to bear in mind that not everything you read, watch or hear is worth your time.

CoinDCX hack: Founders say funds unaffected

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

COINDCX has suffered a security breach, resulting in theft of $44 million (about ₹378 crore) and founders said that customer funds remained unaffected and safe, with the compromise limited to an internal operational account.

The total exposure is being absorbed entirely by CoinDCX, using the company's treasury reserves, the company said in a First Incident Report released on Sunday.

According to the report, on July 19, at 4 AM IST, CoinDCX security systems detected an incident involving unauthorised access to one of its accounts on the partner exchange, leading to a financial exposure of about $44 million.

IPL helps JioStar rake in ₹9,600 crore in revenue

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Indian Premier League (IPL), the mega T20 cricketing tournament, helped Reliance Industries-owned JioStar hit the jackpot. The eight-month-old platform reported revenue from operations of ₹9,600 crore in the first quarter of the financial year. The platform also recorded a profit before tax of ₹583 crore and a healthy margin of 10.6%.

The IPL specifically recorded its highest revenues, demonstrating strong year-on-year growth. This was facilitated by a strategic "hybrid monetisation model," which allowed consumers four hours of free content access before requiring a subscription – a method that effectively converted engaged users into paid subscribers.

Kevin Vaz, CEO, JioStar, stated in an analysts' call that this was their "biggest quarter," setting the tone for the entire year's performance. "And biggest I say because it got the biggest cricketing event in India, the IPL, which runs for two months over 74 matches, and that is why that makes a big difference for us," Vaz commented.

The opening weekend of the IPL—held from March 22 to June 3, 2025—registered impressive figures, with 1.4 billion digital views and a reach of 253 million viewers on television. The collective watch time amounted to 49.6 billion minutes.

New I-T Bill to be tabled in parliament

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Income Tax Bill, 2025 is all set to be presented in parliament as the Monsoon session begins on Monday. The bill, which was tabled in Lok Sabha in February this year, will be presented again in parliament after being vetted by a select committee. The Committee made 285 suggestions in the Bill at its meeting on 16 July.

While most of the changes proposed were minor in nature – change in language and correction of typos – three key amendments suggested by the committee. The committee has advised against the provision that would have disallowed income tax refunds if returns were submitted beyond the stipulated due date. This change offers considerable relief to taxpayers. A proposal has also been made to bring back provisions enabling the tax department to issue a nil withholding tax certificate for specific payments. This clause was initially omitted from the draft bill, which previously only permitted certificates for low TDS deductions. The 31-member select committee, which was headed by BJP leader Baijayant Panda, has also recommended the restoration of Section 80M allowing deduction in case of inter-corporate dividends. Its earlier removal had sparked concerns about potential double taxation within complex corporate structures. Reports indicate the government has accepted this recommendation, offering substantial relief to businesses.

According to Gaurav Makhijani, Head of Tax (North India and Gujarat) at Roedl and Partner, The Select Committee has taken into account most of the significant concerns raised and has sought to address areas that were causing ambiguity.

He points out that the definition of "resident" in cases of individuals going abroad for employment was unclear and wide, refunds could not be claimed if the return was not filed within the original due date, etc. "The select committee has recommended that this key issue be resolved," says Guarav Makhijani. However, he expresses his disappointment at the committee not proposing any change in rules related to application of the Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) on LLPs and partnerships. The main focus of the committee's recommendations is to accelerate the resolution of tax disputes. The panel has strongly advocated for the implementation of a time-bound mechanism for resolving tax litigations.

Know about the new bill

The new bill has a word count of 2.6 lakh, lower than 5.12 lakh in the existing Act. The number of sections is 536, as against 819 effective sections in the existing law. The number of chapters has also been halved to 23 from 47. The Bill has 57 tables, compared to 18 in the existing Act and removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations.

Sreeshankar wins long jump title in Portugal

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched the title with a leap of 7.75m at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Maia, Portugal, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level meet. The Asian Games silver medallist registered his best effort in the second round on Saturday night.

TROUBLE MOUNTS FOR SHUBMAN AND CO

After Arshdeep, Akash Deep sustains injury with Kamboj joining as a cover; Nitish likely to be ruled out of series

Express in England
FIROZ MIRZA
@MANCHESTER

(Clockwise) India head coach Gautam Gambhir with chief selector Ajit Agarkar; Mohammed Siraj and Manchester United's Harry Maguire sharing a light moment along with Rishabh Pant; United head coach Ruben Amorim talking to Indian players | BCCI X/PTI

WITH the crucial fourth Test at Old Trafford Cricket Stadium in Manchester only a couple of days away, India's troubles only seem to be mounting. Amid all the uncertainties over pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's participation in the match and a cut in Arshdeep Singh's bowling hand, which required stitches, the visitors now have to deal with Akash Deep's injury.

Given the situation they are in, Shubman Gill and Co have added Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj to the squad for the fourth match scheduled to begin on Wednesday. The pacer reached Manchester on Sunday. What also does not help their case is that all-rounder Nitish Reddy is likely to be ruled out of the series due to injury. Reddy's damaged ligament and knee injury meant he was among the six other players who did not attend the optional training session behind closed doors on Sunday.

Akash Deep, the 28-year-old right-arm fast bowler, who plays for Bengal in domestic cricket, featured in the first two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last year and suffered back injury ahead of the fifth match in Sydney before being ruled out of the series. He then spent a couple of months at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for rehabilitation before joining his IPL franchise, Lucknow Super Giants. He replaced Jasprit Bumrah in the second Test at Edgbaston and claimed ten wickets (four in the first innings and six in the next) playing a key role in India's win over their opponents. Akash Deep bowled 20 overs in the first essay and followed it up with 21.1 overs in the second innings. At Lord's with Bumrah returning to the playing XI, Akash Deep apparently struggled with his rhythm and could pick only one wicket in the match. He toiled for 23 overs in the first innings without success and bowled only eight overs in the next innings managing a solitary wicket. He also walked out of the field on Day 4 afternoon for some treatment but what ailed him then could not be ascertained.

Even during the training session in Beckenham, on the outskirts of London, on Thursday, Akash Deep did not bowl or bat. He only did a few fitness drills there. It was during India's first nets at the place after the Lord's loss, Arshdeep got injured giving the team yet another jolt. He was trying to stop a ball in his follow through but got a cut in his bowling hand in the process. The Punjab pacer is apparently out at least for the upcoming Test. Workload management has been one of the biggest talking points ahead of any long series - be it at home or overseas - with Bumrah at the centre of discussion. Bumrah played all the five matches Down Under captaining India to victory in the first match at Perth. He, however, suffered lower back injury on the penultimate day of the last Test in Sydney, which kept him out of England's white-ball tour of India and 2025 Champions Trophy. The pacer then returned to action in the IPL for his franchise Mumbai Indians. Similarly, Siraj was rested for England white-ball series and was not picked for the Champions Trophy. If the number of overs bowled by Indian bowlers in the ongoing series are taken into consideration, Siraj is first on the list with 109 overs. He is also the leading wicket taker with 13 scalps. Bumrah has bowled 86.4 overs in the two matches so far with 12 wickets in his kitty, the second most successful bowlers of the series so far. Akash Deep has bowled 72.1 overs so far in the couple of games he has played.

England's off spinner Shoaib Bashir tops the list of bowlers with most overs in the series with 140.4 overs to his credit. Chris Woakes and Brydon Carse are second and third respectively with 121 and 117 overs respectively. Skipper Ben Stokes has bowled 105 overs so far in the series. All these English players have featured in all the three games so far.

India still have two options in Shardul Thakur and Prasidh Krishna if Arshdeep and Akash Deep could not play the Manchester match. If they decide to go with Kamboj overlooking Thakur and Prasidh, his two matches with India A ahead of the series could prove handy. He had claimed five wickets in the two matches and scored 51 not out in the second game at Northampton. Next 48 hours will paint a clearer picture.

Moeen, CSK, and Dhoni through the eyes of dad Munir

Munir Ali with grandchildren Abu Bakr, Musa and Hamza | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FIROZ MIRZA @Manchester

MOEEN Ali represented Chennai Super Kings in four IPL seasons starting from 2021 winning two titles - one each in the first year and 2023. He was the third leading scorer for them in his maiden season scoring 357 runs from 15 matches. It was during that edition, he was given an opportunity to bat at No 3 and the English all-rounder made the most of it turning it to be his most successful IPL stint so far.

Munir Ali, Moeen's father, said IPL played a big role in Moeen's growth as a cricketer and affirmed it was skipper MS Dhoni and CSK that used him to the best of his potential. "Playing him at No 3 was the best thing that happened to him when he was with CSK. I always say Moeen as a batting all-rounder but hardly he was used in that capacity while playing for England. CSK rightly promoted him up the order and it augured well both for him and the team," father Munir told this daily. The 38-year-old all-rounder played his first three IPL seasons for Royal Challengers Bengaluru before being bought by five-time champions. Munir, who left no stone unturned to make sure Moeen makes it big at the international level, said his son learnt a lot from skipper Dhoni, which helped him when he captained a few sides in England.

"Playing IPL was a great move for Moeen. First he played for RCB and got a chance to spend time with Virat (Kohli). Then he moved to CSK and learnt a lot from Dhoni - the calmness, captaincy skills. I would say playing at No 3 and getting an opportunity with the ball helped him thrive at CSK. He always talks about Dhoni how much he learnt from him. He enjoyed playing for CSK. He loved his stay in Chennai as everyone loves CSK players there. We still get messages for him on social media from fans, which make us really happy and proud," he added. Soon after his first season with the Chennai franchise, Moeen guided Birmingham Phoenix into the final of the inaugural Hundred. Munir believed it was from Dhoni that he learnt captaincy skills, which helped in doing so. "As a captain he found that Dhoni was always calm no matter what the situation was. When he came back, he captained Birmingham Phoenix to the final. The commentators always talked about Moeen's calmness in difficult situations. That is one important thing he picked up from the former India captain. If a captain is calm and relaxed then the team is calm and relaxed and that was a life lesson for Moeen. Another thing he learnt from Dhoni was assessing the game and going accordingly."

Munir wanted to watch his son play for CSK from the stands and even got a visa for the India visit once but could not turn up due to poor health. He, however, still remembers a moment when the CSK crowd gave a huge cheer to his son when he walked out to bat. "I will always remember that day because I was watching that match on TV and the way Moeen was welcomed by the fans, I can only admire and feel honoured."

Borrowing money for training

It was not easy for Munir to help his son become a cricketer. Munir said he once had to borrow money from one of his friends to arrange some technical sessions for Moeen. "When he was 15 and already on a contract with Warwickshire, I noticed his vulnerability while playing outside the off stump. We took the services of late Neal Abberley, one of the best coaches at Warwickshire, to iron out that flaw. It cost me 50 pounds per session, which went for around an hour. In total I paid 500 pounds for 10 sessions. I borrowed a part of it from one of my friends," Munir reminisced.

But it's not the only hurdle the Ali family had to overcome as there were many to deal with. Munir, however, now is in a happy space and restarted his journey as a coach again imparting training to his grandsons - Abu Bakr, Moeen's son and Musa and Hamza, sons of Kadeer, Moeen's elder brother.

Humpy marches into WC semis, Vaishali out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KONERU Humpy has once again made history by becoming the first Indian to advance to the semifinals of the FIDE Women's World Cup on Sunday in Batumi Georgia. Meanwhile, R Vaishali lost to Tan Zhongyi in the quarterfinal to bow out.

Playing with the black piece, India No. 1 Humpy drew her second classical game against Yuxin Song of China, after Saturday's win. The quarterfinal tie ended at 1.5-0.5 in favour of the 38-year-old Grandmaster.

Humpy will face Chinese Lei Tingjie, who defeated local hope Nana Dzagnidze 2-0 in the other quarterfinal. Before Sunday, Harika Dronavalli's quarter final run at the 2023 edition was the best performance by an Indian woman. The all-Indian quarterfinal tie between Harika and 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh will be decided via tiebreaks at 4.35 pm on Monday. The duo's second classical game also ended in a draw. The winner of this contest will face Tan Zhongyi, who defeated Vaishali. Playing on a black piece, Vaishali lost her second classical game to Tan 0.5 - 1.5. The World Cup offers three berths to the FIDE Candidates set to begin in the first half of 2026. **Sunday's results (only Indians, QF Rd2):** D Harika (0.5) **drew** Divya D (0.5), T Zhongyi (1.5) **bt** R Vaishali (0.5), K Humpy (1.5) **bt** Y Song (0.5).

Koneru Humpy in action against Song Yuxin | FIDE/ANNA SHTOURMAN

Next 3 WTC Finals will be in England

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE International Cricket Council has confirmed that the next three World Test Championship Finals — 2027, 2029 and 2031 — will be hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board after the Annual General Meeting held in Singapore between July 17-20.

This decision comes after three successful hosting of WTC finals by ECB in front of packed crowds with the recent one between Australia and South Africa at Lord's becoming a big hit. India qualified for the first two finals but lost to New Zealand and Australia in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

Meanwhile, the ICC have also provided an update regarding the support provided for the Afghan women cricketers who are in exile after the Taliban came to power in 2021. As many as 19 Afghan cricketers are currently in Australia, playing club cricket while also working and studying. A few months back, the ICC had announced an initiative, led by the global cricketing body, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the ECB, and Cricket Australia (CA), under the supervision of ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khwaja.

In April, ICC Chair Jay Shah had said: "We are proud to launch this task force and support fund, complemented by a comprehensive high-performance programme, to ensure displaced Afghan women cricketers can continue their journey in cricket. This initiative reflects our dedication to cricket's global growth and its power to inspire unity and hope."

After the recent AGM, the ICC said that a programme is being structured to ensure the displaced players get a chance to play, upskill and have a chance at working during the next two women's global events. "The programme aims to deliver support through high-performance initiatives, domestic playing opportunities, and engagement at key ICC global events, including the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England," the ICC stated.

Meanwhile, USA Cricket, which has administrative issues, has been given a three-month notice to get its affairs in order. "USA Cricket is required to undertake comprehensive governance reforms, including but not limited to completing free and fair elections within a three-month period. The board, however, reserves the right to take such actions as it deems appropriate," ICC said in a statement.

KEY DECISIONS

- England to host 2027, 2029, 2031 WTC Finals
- Initiative for Afghan women cricketers in exile with opportunities at 2025 ODI WC & 2026 T20 WC
- US Cricket given three months to get things in order

8 nations receive ICC awards

SINGAPORE: South Asian neighbours Nepal and Bhutan were among eight nations to win global honours in the 2024 edition of ICC Development Awards, cricket's parent body said on the sidelines of its annual board meeting here on Sunday. USA Cricket received the ICC Associate Member Men's Team Performance of the Year award for their success in the last calendar year with performances that included qualifying for the Super Eight of the T20 World Cup hosted by the USA and the West Indies.

EXPRESS READ

Asian jr c'ships: India beat Hong Kong, to face Japan

SOLO (INDONESIA): India continued their winning run, defeating Hong Kong China 110-100 to top Group D at the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships. Both teams had already secured their spots in the knock-out stage. Junior world no. 1 Tanvi Sharma dominated Liu Hoi Kiu Anna in the girls' singles. Japan finished second in Group A.

Boxing: Nishant extends good run after TKO win vs Evans

NEW DELHI: Indian boxer Nishant Dev extended his flawless run in the professional circuit, securing a Technical Knockout win over American LaQuan Evans in Frisco, USA. The 24-year-old halted the more seasoned Evans in the sixth round of their Super Welterweight bout on Saturday night, recording his third consecutive professional victory.

Nataraj betters 'Best Indian Time' in 100m freestyle

BERLIN: Swimmer Srihari Nataraj continued his record-breaking spree on Sunday as he bettered the 'Best Indian Time' in men's 100m freestyle, clocking 49.46 seconds to qualify for the semifinals at the World University Games here. Nataraj erased Guangzhou Asian Games bronze medallist Virdhawal Khade's mark of 49.47s.

Anahat to spearhead India at world jr squash c'ships

CAIRO: Teen squash sensation Anahat Singh will lead a 12-member Indian contingent at the World Junior Squash Championships, starting Monday at the Black Ball Sporting Club in Cairo. The championships, running from July 21 to 26, will feature 234 of the world's top under-19 players. India's squad comprises six men and six women competing in singles.

EURO 2025

Germany beat France on penalties to reach semis

AGENCIES @Basel

GERMANY overcame France on penalties to reach the semifinals of the Women's European Championship despite playing almost the entire match and extra time with 10 players. A drama-filled match finished 1-1 on Saturday, then Germany won the shootout 6-5 thanks to the heroics of Ann-Katrin Berger, who saved two shots as well as dispatching her own spot kick. There were tears of joy from the Germany players after perhaps one of the greatest examples in football history of digging deep to defy the odds. Germany, which is bidding for a record-extending ninth European title, will face World Cup winner Spain in Zurich on Wednesday.

Germany players celebrating after winning the shootout vs France | AP

BRITISH OPEN

Scheffler completes dominant run to another major title

AGENCIES @Portrush

SCOTTIE Scheffler began his week at the British Open pondering "the point" of his pursuit of perfection but still cruised away from the field to lift the Claret Jug for the first time. Now a four-time major winner, the unassuming American's game is making waves in a dominant spell golf has not seen since Tiger Woods' heyday. Scheffler's four-stroke victory at Royal Portrush was already his fourth this year, despite a slow start after a freak hand injury caused by broken glass when he was making pasta.

Scottie Scheffler celebrates with The Claret Jug Trophy on Sunday | AP

Since the Houston Open in March, the 29-year-old has not finished outside the top 10 in 11 tournaments -- rubber-stamping his status as the world's best. That run has included major wins at both the PGA Championship and British Open to take him within a US Open victory of joining the six men to have won the career Grand Slam. Rory McIlroy was the latest to join that select club when he won the Masters in April. But even the world number two was blown away by Scheffler's consistent excellence as McIlroy was unable to chase down the only man on the planet currently better with a club in his hand on home soil.

He is the first player since Woods to surpass 100 consecutive weeks as world number one. Scheffler's seven PGA Tour wins last year was the most since Woods in 2007 and he has also now become just the second player to win the British Open while ranked number one. Behind that success is a relentless work ethic, even if it sometimes drives even Scheffler to wonder why he pushes himself to the max."We work so hard for such little moments," he said on the eve of the British Open.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
21.07.2025

EDUCATION EXPRESS
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UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SSC SELECTION POST PHASE XIII
Date: July 24 to August 1, 2025

IBPS RRB PO PRELIMINARY
Date: July 27, 2025

CSIR UGC NET JUNE 2025
Date: July 28, 2025

newindianexpress.com

Placement trends & challenges

Campus placement session 2023–2024

105+ companies visited campus

115 job offers made to UG & PG

DURING 2023-24: 70% placed

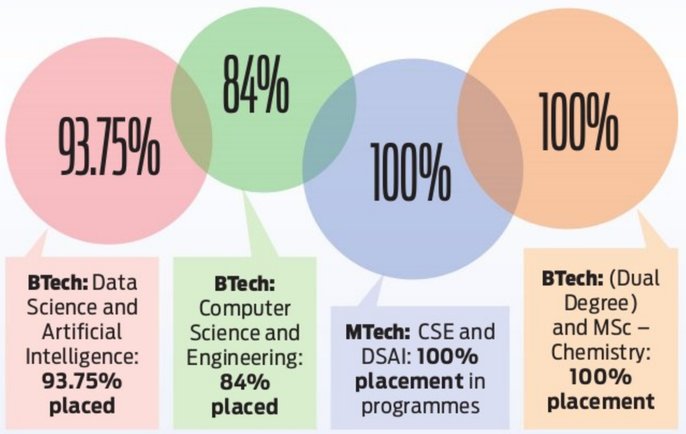
₹12.51 LPA Mean CTC | ₹11 LPA Median CTC

FRESHER'S PARTY

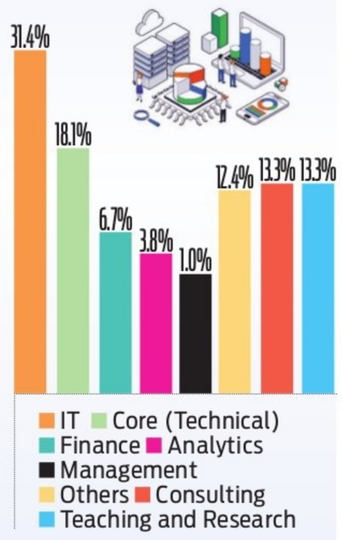
GLOBAL REACH

A significant highlight of this year's placement season was the international recruitment by Accenture Japan, which offered positions to four students, underlining IIT Bhilai's rising visibility on the global hiring map

DISCIPLINE-WISE PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS


93.75%
84%
100%
100%
BTech: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence: 93.75% placed
BTech: Computer Science and Engineering: 84% placed
MTech: CSE and DSAI: 100% placement in programmes
BTech: (Dual Degree) and MSc – Chemistry: 100% placement

COMPANY CLASSIFICATION



LIFE AND TIMES @IIT BHILAI

What makes the spirit of the institute radiant and resplendent? **Saumya Solanki** attempts to decode what keeps the classrooms engaging and the campus buzzing

Iconic events & traditions

Meraz: The techno-cultural identity

Meraz is the annual techno-cultural festival celebrated as a vibrant confluence of technology, culture, and creativity. The festival hosts a wide spectrum of events, ranging from technical competitions like hackathons to cultural showcases such as fashion shows, dance battles, and DJ nights. Unique events like Robo Kabaddi, Nukkad Natak, Murder Mystery, Designing contests, Escape Rooms, and quizzes add an engaging and unconventional flavour to the celebration. The Entrepreneurship Conclave further highlights the fest's commitment to fostering leadership. Meraz is also known for its high-profile star performances.

Anveshan: The cultural championship of IIT Bhilai

Anveshan is not just an event; it's the heartbeat of the cultural spirit at IIT Bhilai. It stands as the institute's Cultural General Championship, a celebration of creativity, expression, and artistic diversity. Organised annually by the Cultural Council, Anveshan brings together students from all academic years and houses a vibrant display of talent across various art forms. From soul-stirring music and energetic dance performances to compelling drama, poetry, and fine arts, Anveshan showcases the best of what the IIT Bhilai student community has to offer.

Prayatna: Sports fest

Prayatna, the annual intra-institute sports extravaganza of IIT Bhilai, was inaugurated on January 16, 2020. Organised by the Sports Council, it features various sports and sees participation from over 300 students. Spanning three months, Prayatna fosters healthy competition and celebrates the spirit of sportsmanship on campus. The latest edition of Prayatna 7.0 featured nearly 450 students spread across eight teams competing for the championship. Major games taking place at Prayatna are:-

- Badminton
- Football
- Volleyball
- Cricket
- Chess
- Table Tennis
- Basket Ball
- Kabaddi
- Athletics
- Yoga

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anand Panchbhai
- BTech CSE, Batch of 2020
- Co-founder of Logy.AI

Pratik Sanjay Patil
- BTech CSE, Batch of 2022
- Protocol Engineer II, Polygon Labs

Pintu Kumar
- BTech EE, Batch of 2020
- Software Engineer, Microsoft

Pramit Bhattacharyya
- BTech CSE, Batch of 2021
- Software Engineer, Google

Aikata
- BTech (Honours), CSE, Batch of 2020
- PhD candidate, Computer Science at Technical University, Graz

Devansh Bajpai
- BTech CSE, Batch of 2020
- Software Development Engineer III, Google

Saptarshi Mukherjee
- BTech (Honours) CSE, Batch of 2020
- Software Engineer III, Google

'We aim for education system with multifaceted outcomes'

IIT Bhilai Director Professor Rajiv Prakash explains the foundational vision of the institute, which is to be a centre for excellence in teaching and research in the allied fields of engineering, science, and liberal arts

What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIT Bhilai apart?
IIT Bhilai is one of the young IITs of the country. Established in 2016, we are proud to have achieved several goals in less than a decade: NEP 2020 curriculum compliance, sponsored project outlay of Rs 180 crore, being selected as "category A" Techology Innovation Hub under NMICPS programme of DST, successfully operating inter-disciplinary departments such as Mechatronics, Electric Vehicle Technologies, Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, to mention a few.

How is the IIT using tech like drone taxis to improve rural healthcare in Chhattisgarh?
IIT Bhilai is working in the Northeast region to pilot the use of drone taxis for medical supply delivery in remote and hilly terrains.

A healthcare application has been developed under the project 'Healthcare and Community Medicine Empowerment of Tribal Population: Biological Validation of Cancer and Sickle Cell Anemia' to improve health communication and awareness among tribal communities. The app enables real-time interaction between beneficiaries, academia, and healthcare providers, focusing on maternal health, adolescent well-being, cancer, and sickle cell disease.

How will the new Indo-German Joint Centre on Sensors enhance global research collaboration?
Recently, IIT Bhilai has signed an MoU with the University of Siegen, Germany, which strengthened Indo-German academic and research ties. The MoU aims to promote joint research, academic exchange, and collaborative projects. The Joint Centre on Sensors at IIT Bhilai will serve as a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation in sensor technologies, co-managed by experts from both institutions.

Q&A

Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIT Bhilai playing towards the same?
My vision for IIT Bhilai is to strive for research-driven UG and PG education focused on holistic development that shapes global citizens who are also aware of their cultural heritage and legacy. In alignment with the 'Viksit Bharat @2047' mission, from technical institute's paradigm, along with the regular activities, there will be a significant expansion in the number of students and faculty, establishing new departments and so on.

STUDENTS' VOICES

GAURAV YOGI, GAJANAND KUMAWAT, AAYUSH KATARIA, VIKAS CHOUDHARY, BTech, Batch of 2027

The best part of studying at IIT Bhilai is the freedom to explore and create. With a constructive academic environment, world-class labs, and exceptional faculty, learning here is truly enriching. Students engage in real-world projects across robotics, motorsports, and entrepreneurship, gaining hands-on experience beyond textbooks. The campus is ragging-free, promoting strong bonds and collaboration between seniors and juniors. It offers opportunities in every field — be it academics or innovation.

What's fun on campus?

BEST SPOT TO HANG OUT FOR THE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Where the breeze is gentle and the lake mirrors the sky, IIT Bhilai's lakeside stands as a favourite escape.

BEST DISH IN THE CANTEEN

Undoubtedly a tie between the pav bhaji and chhole bhature.

MOST AWESOME INFORMAL TRADITION

Fresher's Party: An informal welcome that replaces handshakes with high-fives and nerves with laughter.

MOST INSTAGRAM-WORTHY SPOT ON CAMPUS

If there's one place on campus that effortlessly steals the spotlight and your Instagram feed, it's the Library Building.

BEST TIME TO BE ON THE CAMPUS

The best time to be on campus is during Meraz fest.

MOST COMPETITIVE CLUB OR SOCIETY

For those who think in logic and see elegance in efficiency, Ingenuity is the place to be. As IIT Bhilai's Competitive Coding Club, Ingenuity is a hub of curious minds driven by a passion for problem solving.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION HUB

1 In collaboration with AIIMS Raipur, IIT Bhilai developed the Intelligent Emergency Care System (SMART-ER), an AI and IoT-enabled platform for real-time clinical decision support. This system has reduced ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) treatment costs by 55%, untreated cases by 50%, and is projected to save over 200,000 lives annually. Complementing this, the student-led Dhanvantari project optimises ambulance response via GPS tracking and traffic-aware routing across Chhattisgarh.

2 In industrial settings, a predictive maintenance solution developed with Bhilai Steel Plant has led to a 40% reduction in mill stoppages using AI on PLC and video data.

3 In agriculture, the start-up Tadoba Solutions — incubated at IIT Bhilai — launched Crop Doctor 2.0, benefiting 7.6 lakh farmers with AI-powered disease detection and advisory services. It earned the National e-Governance Gold Award and has driven down crop losses and chemical use while increasing revenue by 8–10% (for marginalised and small farmers).

4 In education, the institute has collaborated with the Chhattisgarh Government to implement AI-powered dashboards and chatbots at Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), monitoring data from 56,000+ schools and improving services for 7.5 lakh students. Remote districts like Sukma and Dantewada saw a 50% increase in live tracking, reducing mid-day meal costs significantly.

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21•07•2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Swearing in

On this day, in 1960, Sirimavo Bandaranaike became world's first female elected head of government, as Prime Minister of Ceylon

CANDIDATURE

The widow of the late Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, was sworn in by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, after the former PM Dudley Senanayake resigned

REVIEWING PLANS

The party pledged to implement the 10-year-plan of development, drafted by the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of the late PM

GOVERNANCE

Her party also intended taking action to appoint a commission to inquire into political aspects of the assassination of the late Prime Minister

Best of namma ooru

PG 2

REEL DEAL

ACTORS AND ENTHUSIASTS TO FESTIVAL CURATORS AND THEATRE OWNERS WEIGH IN ON THE KARNATAKA GOVT'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO CAP MOVIE TICKET PRICES AT ₹200 TO MAKE CINEMA ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

MOST of us, undoubtedly, have a cherished memory of going to the film theatres – it could be that first day first show of your favourite star, a late-night show all by yourself, or perhaps, it wasn't about the movie at all, but the moment you held hands with your date or the quality time spent with your family that mattered.

However, with the rise of OTT (over-the-top) platforms in recent years, going to the cinema has become a less common part of our lives. It has also resulted in lower footfall across many theatres. In the midst of this, the Karnataka government recently issued a draft notification proposing a ₹200 cap on ticket prices for all theatres and multiplexes – a move aimed at making cinema more accessible. Besides, it also invited the public to send in feedback.

From excitement over increased accessibility to concern about negatively affecting single-screen theatres' already dwindling business and a lack of premium movie experiences, film enthusiasts, actors, directors and more share their two cents with *CE*.

ANIRUDDHA JATKAR, ACTOR

I think the move is mostly positive, with the cap expected to make regional Kannada films and mid-budget films more accessible to audiences, benefiting local filmmakers and emerging actors. However, established stars and high-budget productions may take a hit, as multiplexes, which are the key revenue generators, will no longer be able to charge premium rates. The move could also impact high-priced formats and premium experiences like IMAX, 4DX, and recliner seating, making them financially unsustainable. We could organise seminars, invite experts, and discuss ways to address the related issues while also promoting inclusive viewing.

NANDINI CHAKRAVORTY, FILM ENTHUSIAST

It's a relief to hear that ticket prices would drop, but it also means that theatres would overcharge (like they already do) on food and beverages. The experience of going to a movie theatre is still somewhat compromised. It would also need better content to drive audiences back to the theatres. Not a lot of good films are being released in theatres anymore, while there are new releases on OTT. Earlier, a new film used to be released every other Friday. If that were the scenario today, I'd definitely go to the movies more, especially with the lowered ticket prices.

EVANGELINE JESSICA WILLIAMS, FESTIVAL CURATOR, BANGALORE FILM SOCIETY

There are a lot of factors influencing why ticket prices are different in various theatres, primarily the facilities and quality of the visuals and audio. As it is a cost-intensive industry, accessing good quality surround sound, paired with a great projection, and the quality of the screen definitely justifies the difference in prices, as the experience tends to change. The standardisation will benefit large audiences, making films accessible to more people but may impact theatre owners, film distributors, and producers. As far as production roles like actors, technical and creative crew are concerned, they won't be deeply affected, as these costs are accounted for before starting the production of a film.

MURALI V, OWNER, KAMAKYA THEATRE

Working-class people and middle-class families stop coming to theatres as it becomes a pricey affair - ticket cost goes up to ₹1,500 to ₹2,000 today. But as a single-screen theatre owner, I'm concerned that everyone will choose multiplexes over us if the prices are the same in both places. ₹200 is a good cap for single screens as our tickets cost about the same right now, but there should be a small difference, maybe ₹100 more for multiplexes, so people still come to us.

MITHILESH EDAVALATH, FILM DIRECTOR

The first three weeks are crucial for a movie, and since Covid, it's been difficult to get a good turnout. I hope the move helps Kannada films. As a director, my audience may not be able to afford the high rates that multiplexes charge, but the ₹200 cap might help them come watch my movie. I hope they reduce the concession prices as well to make the experience even more accessible.

ANAND VARADARAJ, FOUNDER, B'LURU INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

This is definitely a positive move, already implemented in other states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Especially in Tamil Nadu, I've seen housefull shows at midnight and 4am, so I hope this drives audiences to theatres instead of OTT platforms. I don't think this will affect theatre revenues negatively, as they mainly make money from concession sales. One thing I would also like the government to look into is giving more prime slots to Kannada films, the same way Maharashtra has done with Marathi films. In Bengaluru, these are all given to Hollywood films, or those from Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil, featuring big stars.

Directed by Bengaluru-based visual artist Vimal Chandran, *Ray* is the debut independent track of music composer Sushin Shyam, which explores togetherness and acceptance

LIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES

A still from *Ray*

ANJALI RAM

IMAGINE a world where differences are just another means to bring people closer together – a world where there is no exclusion and everyone lives happily. Sounds like a world that only exists in fairy tales, right? Through *Ray*, the debut independent production of music composer Sushin Shyam, city-based visual artist and director **Vimal Chandran**, aims to make this idea a reality through a unique concept and captivating visuals in the backdrop of '90s Kerala.

According to him, the idea was to create a story that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

"People are different, and everyone tries to protect their territory in some way or other. I believe that everyone is an immigrant somewhere or other. We are all connected, and our differences are what make us special," he says.

> *People are different, and everyone tries to protect their territory in some way or other. I believe that everyone is an immigrant somewhere or other. We are all connected, and our differences are what make us special*
>
> Vimal Chandran, director

At a time when differences often lead to division and war, *Ray* tries to evoke a sense of empathy with the story of a blue-haired boy who moves to a new location with his family, notes Chandran. "I wanted to show the boy in a different light, hence I put him in a blue colour, similar to a children's book illustration," he adds.

As the boy navigates his new surroundings, he initially faces scepticism from the people around him. Things start to appear different when he meets an alien who has also been ostracised by society. Together, they form a bond, and the boy's family welcomes the alien.

Chandran also credits Kerala's cultural heritage as an inspiration.

"I wanted to showcase the beauty of Kerala and the importance of acceptance and inclusion. I have already experimented with it. The alien's bright colours were inspired by Kerala art forms like the Theyyam, while the outfits drew from the traditional attire of African tribes and the Japanese kimono. It's a mix of many things," he explains.

Sushin Shyam

Moreover, the video's aesthetic adds a '90s touch to it. "I took a retro-futuristic approach to the theme because Sushin and I are from the '90s," he says. "The car in the story, the TV holder, walkman, even I took a retro-futuristic approach to the Alien Spaceship," he explains. Creating *Ray* in around nine months was a labour of love and collaborative work for Chandran. "Sushin had planned to do a different concept, in English, initially. When I heard the song, I felt like it lacked nativity. So, I wanted to do it in our way, and Sushin was very supportive," he says.

There are several instances of cultural exchange leading to the video's core message of inclusion, Chandran explains, "The visuals which plays in the ending is actually from the Malayalam movie *Njan Gandharvan* (1991), in which the lead mythical character is from the outside world, and the fireflies have an *ET* [Extra-Terrestrial] (1982) reference. So it's a mix of the directors – Spielberg and Padmarajan coming together at that point. A cultural exchange of art happens there."

The video ends with fireflies as a metaphor. "The fireflies coming out of the TV and how they share the light shows that they have become one family now, living together under one roof," he concludes.

CITY READ

City bar to bring Asian twist to traditional tequila

Siren Cocktail Bar is hosting a special event until July 31 to celebrate World Tequila Day. The collaboration with Patrón features four unique cocktails, each crafted from a different Patrón expression - Blanco, Reposado, and Añejo. Guests can indulge in these drinks between 7pm and 10pm at Siren's intimate venue located at Lavelle Road. The event, priced at ₹3,000 for two, features cocktails in flavours such as the Patrón OG Picante and the Patrón Añejo Old Fashioned, showcasing an Asian twist on traditional tequila. For more information, call 77188 74933.

New all-day dining spot brings global flair to authentic cuisine

Hilton Bangalore Embassy GolfLinks has launched DYN, a new all-day dining destination that offers a unique culinary experience blending Indian traditions with global flavours. Guests can enjoy a spread of dishes, such as perfectly folded dim sums and Kerala fish curry, crafted with meticulous techniques, from 7am to 11pm. The venue, ideal for both casual meals and intimate gatherings, features a modern and warm ambiance, along with two private dining rooms for special occasions. Prices range from ₹1,400++ for breakfast to ₹2,700++ for dinner, ensuring a high-quality dining experience for all. DYN aims to transform the way people think about food by focusing on the methods used to create each dish.

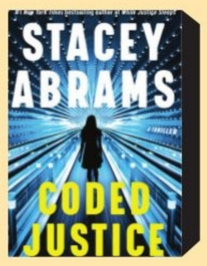
BOOK NOOK

The Bewitching
By Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Three women in three different eras encounter danger and witchcraft in this eerie multigenerational horror saga from the bestselling author of Mexican Gothic.

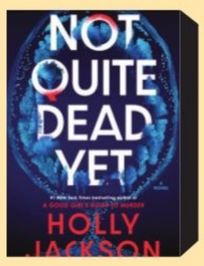
Arcana Academy
By Elise Kova

A woman who wields magical tarot cards lands herself in a false engagement with the headmaster of a mysterious academy in this first installment of an enthralling fantasy romance series from the bestselling author of *A Deal with the Elf King*.



Coded Justice
By Stacy Abrams

A prescient new thriller in the bestselling Avery Keene series, by author Stacey Abrams, *Coded Justice* follows Avery down a dark rabbit hole into the breathtaking and dangerously evolving world of AI in the medical industry.



Not Quite Dead
By Holly Jackson

In seven days Jet Mason will be dead. The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* – now a hit Netflix series – returns with her first novel for adults: A twisty thriller about a young woman trying to solve her own murder.

AND THE GAME BEGINS

Nutritionist Shalini Manglani (left) and Gehna Manglani (middle) setting up a Mahjong game at the inaugural edition of FLO Santé, held at Anantaya, Palace Grounds | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

KHEER

INGREDIENTS

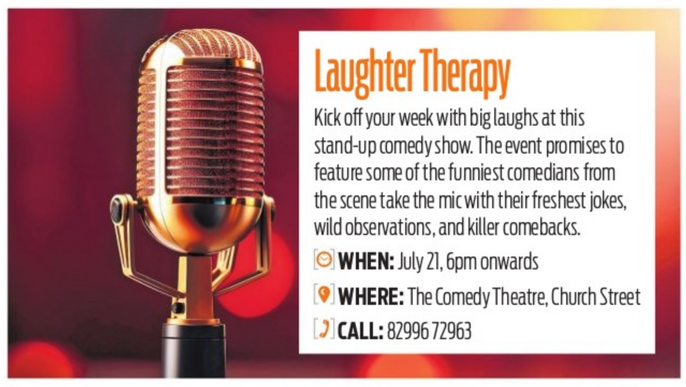
- **Washed rice:** 1/4 cup
- **Sugar:** 1/2 cup, adjust to taste
- **Cashews/raisins:** 10 to 12 (optional)
- **Milk:** 1 litre
- **Cardamom:** 4 to 5 pods, crushed

METHOD

- Pour milk into a heavy-bottomed pan and bring it to a boil.
- Add washed rice to the boiling milk. Reduce heat and simmer.
- Stir occasionally and cook until rice is soft and the mixture thickens (about 30 to 40 minutes).
- Add sugar and crushed cardamom. Stir well until sugar dissolves.
- Fry cashews/raisins in ghee and add on top before serving warm or chilled.

Contributed by **R Shanthi**, Bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Laughter Therapy

Kick off your week with big laughs at this stand-up comedy show. The event promises to feature some of the funniest comedians from the scene take the mic with their freshest jokes, wild observations, and killer comebacks.

WHEN: July 21, 6pm onwards
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
CALL: 82996 72963

Artistic Noon

Say no to screen time and yes to creativity at this two-hour-long beginner-friendly beach resin art workshop. Take your friends along and enjoy face-to-face conversations while you learn. At the end of the session, you can take home your unique masterpiece.

WHEN: July 21, 3pm **WHERE:** Uvid Art and Craft Supplies, Nagasandra
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Fusing Fun

Participate in a hands-on glass fusing workshop, where you can design with colourful glass pieces. Cut, shape, layer, and glue them into beautiful forms like bowls, platters, or sun catchers. Your creation will be kiln-fired and ready for collection a few days later. The activity is safe, guided, and requires no prior experience.

WHEN: July 22, 10.30am to 6.30pm
WHERE: Fired Up, Whitefield
CALL: 72042 68464

Peak Energy

Get your Monday groove on at this high-energy Bollywood and Punjabi DJ party. With a spacious dance floor and non-stop desi beats, this could be your perfect way to start your week with friends.

WHEN: July 21, 8pm onwards
WHERE: Gstreet, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

Word by Word

Enjoy a harmonious blend of 432 Hz healing music and thought-provoking poetry that explores the depths of human consciousness and spirituality. This immersive journey invites you to connect with your inner self and the universe.

WHEN: July 22, 7.30pm
WHERE: Urban Solace, Ulsoor
CALL: 98450 13055

Pottery Fun

Take part in this fully guided coil pottery session with your loved ones. Learn the techniques of building pottery using coils of clay. Priced at ₹999++, this session offers to be a beginner-friendly one.

WHEN: July 21, 3pm
WHERE: Third Wave Coffee, Sadashivanagar
CALL: 73497 11123

Musical Evening

Let your week begin with serenity. Enjoy a soulful evening of Dhrupad, one of the form of Indian classical vocal music. Rooted in the Dagarvani tradition, the performance blends rich vocal melodies with the earthy rhythms of the Pakhawaj, fostering a meditative atmosphere of tranquillity and clarity.

WHEN: July 22, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

As she grows older, my dog, seven-year-old indie and half-stray, has developed strange obsessions. Any spot on the floor close to where she sits near the sofa seems fascinating and fearful to her. Near her bed is the dining table – should a plate land on it a bit noisily, she instantly starts growling.

AS your seven-year-old indie dog gets older, she may become more sensitive to sights and sounds, which can lead to unusual or fearful behaviours. Her fixation on certain floor spots might be linked to anxiety or changes in vision. Gently redirect her attention with toys or commands when she starts obsessing. If she growls when plates land on the dining table, try desensitising her by offering treats during calm exposure to those sounds. Ensure her resting area feels safe and quiet. With patience, gentle training, and reassurance, these habits can improve. If they persist or worsen, consult a vet for guidance.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

ASHTA CHANDRASANA VARIATION HANDS ON KNEE

(CRESCENT HIGH LUNGE POSE VARIATION HANDS ON KNEE)

This is a variation of the base pose Ashta Chandrasana (Crescent High Lunge Pose). The difference is in the position of the hands. The other body alignments are the same. It can be considered as a preparatory pose variation before entering into the final pose because, for a beginner, stabilising the body in a foundational pose, in terms of leg balancing, can be quite challenging.

STEPS

- Start in Adho Mukha Svanasana, tailbone lifted, buttocks pointed toward the roof, feet at hip-width apart, planting the heels firmly on the ground to extend the back of your ankles. Push the chest toward the legs to shift the body weight onto the feet, gazing at the naval. Hold this position for a few breaths.
- Inhale, lift both heels off the ground, exhale, and bring the left foot forward, on the mat, in between your palms. Keep the left knee and left ankle perpendicular to the ground. Align the front thigh (left thigh) parallel to the floor.
- Keep the back leg (right leg) straight, the back knee (right knee) joint locked, and the back heel (right heel) lifted. Pause here for 1 or 2 breaths to find balance and create a firm grip on the ground.
- Inhale, raise your upper body to the sky, elongate the spine, keeping your back straight and widely expanded. Roll your shoulders back and move your chest forward and upward. Pull your navel toward your spine for core engagement.
- Exhale, gently place both hands on the front knee (left knee) to reach the final pose. While here, ensure that the chest, belly and pelvis face front, maintaining the spine's natural curve. Align both hips evenly.
- Hold the position for about six breaths or as per the capacity, keeping the chin parallel to the floor. Gaze at the front.
- Finally, release the pose in reverse order, return to Adho Mukha Svanasana.
- Repeat the instructions for the other side.
- After completing both sides, relax completely in Balasana.

BENEFITS

- It can be considered a substitute pose for people suffering from frozen shoulder or weak shoulder muscles to elongate the spine.
- Improves blood circulation in the pelvic region and promotes hormonal balance, which is important for women suffering from PCOD/PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome).
- Spiritually it focuses on the Muladhara, Swadhisthana, and Manipura Chakras.
- This activates the organs related to the respiratory system.
- It helps keep the nasal passage clear.
- Maintains toned muscles.
- Knees and ankles are flexed to improve the posture.
- Brings perfect awareness, building stability and stamina to gain better self-confidence.
- Helps in practising various other advanced-level poses.
- Improves the functioning of internal organs.
- Reduces indigestion and problems related to the reproductive system.
- Reduces the stiffness around the shoulders and neck.
- Reducton of stiffness also improves the energy levels of the body.

LIMITATIONS

- Students who have any injury to the knees or hips, or who suffer from low or high blood pressure, should avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

TAKE A BREAK

Artist Raj Boro's artworks 'Above The Clouds' invites viewers to pause, reflect, and experience the quiet strength of nature

During the season of jamun boom, as the streets are coloured with purple blooms, here are some recipes offering you a range of flavours to savour

A POP OF PURPLE

THE beauty as the calendar flips is that there is a new variety of fruit in the market. Just as we mourn the ending of the mango season, the roadside stalls and fruit shops come alive in purple colours. Mounds of jamun or black plum, in wicker baskets, find a spot. This sweet and tart fruit is seasonal and makes an appearance only for a few weeks, but manages to steal hearts and fill our stomachs.

The juicy, fleshy fruit is a powerhouse of nutrients and is considered health-friendly. While you may grab a handful and pop in while you multitask, *CE* reporters **Nidharshana Raju**, **Rakshitha Priya G**, and **Sonu M Kothari** bring some flavourful jamun recipes from chefs and home chefs.

Jamun Strips

BY ANISHYA M, home chef

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh ripe jamun: 500 g
- **Optional:** Black salt, chaat masala, or a pinch of dry mango powder for seasoning

METHOD

- Wash the jamuns thoroughly.
- Deseed each fruit. Slice in half or squeeze gently to remove the seed.
- Scoop or flatten the pulp slightly to create small thin discs (you can also pulse in a mixer for 1-2 seconds to make a pulp paste, then spread).
- Spread the pulp thinly on a parchment paper or steel plate.
- Sun-dry for 2-3 days, or until crisp, flipping halfway.
- Once dried and firm, cut into chip shapes if needed.
- **Optional:** Sprinkle black salt or chaat masala for tanginess.

Jamun Yogurt Bark

BY SARIKA GUPTA, cookbook author

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh curd: 1.5 cups
- Jamun: 300 g
- Sugar: 3 tbsp
- Ginger: ½ inch piece (5 g)
- Mint leaves: 15
- Salt: 1 pinch

METHOD

- Pour curd in the cheesecloth lined soup strainer. Place it in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
- Peel and mash ginger.
- Set aside 6-7 jamuns for garnishing. Trim the remaining jamuns and remove the flesh from the seeds.
- Put pitted jamuns in a grinder jar along with sugar, ginger, and salt.
- Grind to a smooth paste. Add mint leaves and blitz again.
- Remove the strained yogurt in a bowl. It will be around half a cup after draining. Whisk till light and smooth.
- Whisk in the jamun pulp. Taste and adjust the sweetness as per personal preference.
- Line a flat and large container with parchment paper. Lightly grease the paper with ghee.
- Spread the mixture evenly on the paper. Tap gently.
- Cut 6-7 jamuns in halves lengthwise. Press the jamun halves on the top of the yoghurt mixture.
- Cover with lid and freeze for 5-6 hours or overnight.
- At the time of serving, remove the yoghurt bark. Cut into pieces and serve immediately.

Jamun Slushie

BY LAVANYA G, homemaker

INGREDIENTS

- Jamun (seedless): 10-12
- Nimbu paani ice cubes (ice cubes made with lemon juice, water, salt and sugar): 8-10

METHOD

- Grind the jamun fruits until it liquidises.
- Mix the jamun juice and the ice cubes in a bowl.
- Add the mixture to the blender and mix it for a few seconds till it achieves the slushy consistency.
- Serve cold.

Jamun Salad with Honey Mustard Dressing

BY KISHORE KUMAR NEETHI, executive chef, Radisson Blu Hotel & Suites GRT

INGREDIENTS

- Jamun: 1/3 cup, • Avocado: 1/3 cup, • Mango: ¼ cup,
- Walnuts: ¼ cup, • Plums: ¼ cup, • Arugula Lettuce,
- Honey: 1 tbsp, • Lemon: 1 tsp, • Olive oil: 2 tbsp,
- Mustard paste: 1 tsp, • Salt: a pinch, • Pepper: a pinch

METHOD

Mix all the ingredients for dressing and toss the cleaned and cut fruits with lettuce and top with braised nuts.

Mango Sabja Seed Pudding with Jamun Reduction

BY SARIKA GUPTA, cookbook author

INGREDIENTS

- Grated coconut: 1 cup
- Water: 1 cup
- Sabja (Basil) seeds: 25 g (2.5 tbsp)
- Mango pulp:1 cup
- Jamun: 200 g
- Sugar: 2 tbsp
- Salt: 1 pinch

METHOD

- Grind grated coconut with ½ cup of water.
- Extract first coconut milk with the help of a cheesecloth. Grind the residue with ½ cup of water.
- Extract second coconut milk similarly.
- Mix the first and second coconut milk. Stir in sabja seeds and refrigerate it in a covered container for 2-3 hours or until the seeds swell up completely.
- Mix in mango pulp. (Use a premium variety of mango).
- Separate the flesh from the seeds. Finely grind jamun flesh and sugar together.
- Reduce the fruit pulp in a wide nonstick saucepan. Remove when the mixture is thick. Cool completely. Serve cold.

Gifting the recipe of art

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

THINK art and the vision that instantly conjures up in one's mind would be of a canvas in a gilded frame, pronouncing its snobbery and pride from under the glare of the soft lights of a sanitised gallery. This may be true in most cases, for art does have its own settings. But there have been surprises that have broken this stereotype, time and again.

Imagine walking into a bustling eatery in the bylanes of a small Indian town and encountering the artworks of the country's most famous artist. When MF Husain visited Kochi as a brand ambassador for Kerala Tourism, he often chose to eat his meals at Kayees, a popular biryani joint in Mattancherry. On the day of his first visit, he drew the leg of a goat on a piece of paper while sitting on the bench, to indicate to the puzzled waiter that he wanted a leg piece in his curry. He went on to complete the sketch of a goat and handed it over to the restaurant. He also presented a drawing of a camel as a parting gift, and today, the humble hotel proudly displays these invaluable gestures on its crowded walls.

Another unusual place that features a painting by the iconic artist is the Lucky Tea Stall

in Ahmedabad, renowned for its unusual location. The owner who purchased the land did so without realising that it was a cemetery. The knowledge did not prove to be a deterrent, and he went ahead with his plans, placing tables for customers amid the graves and coffins. The morbid surroundings soon became its unique feature, as well as its chai and maska bun. Husain was enamoured by the ambience and in 1994, gifted his painting to the owner, which still adorns its walls, adding its own charm to the 'dine with the dead' environment.

However, not all such establishments have been able to do justice to the precious art that came into their possession under extraordinary circumstances. Lapin Agile, a French cabaret bar, was renowned in the early 20th century for its bohemian patrons. Spanish artist Pablo Picasso often hung out there, drawn to the climate it provided and the opportunity to converse with other artists. On one occasion, he offered a painting to the owner of the bar in exchange for free food and alcohol. The artwork titled 'At the Lapin Agile', depicted a self-portrait of Picasso as a harlequin and was displayed in the main room of the club. Unfortunately, in 1912, the owner had to sell it for a measly $20. Decades later, the same painting was sold at a Sotheby's auction for an astounding $41 million! Talk about bad decisions! A replica, however, still hangs on the same walls of the club that the original once graced.

There are many more such stories of reputed artists gifting their art to people far removed from the world of art, most often as a token of appreciation or support. Those who have understood its worth have given it a place in their surroundings and thus ensured a place in our hearts as well.

(The writer's views are personal)

NUGGETS

Global school selects students for mentorship programme

Four students of OWIS Sarjapur and GIIS Whitefield have been selected to join the Global Schools Sheykhar Ravjiani School of Music (GSSRSOM). The opportunity comes after a leadership lecture series and workshop hosted by music composer Shekhar Ravjiani, which took place on July 19, at the OWIS Sarjapur and GIIS Whitefield campuses in Bengaluru. The programme aims to inspire and nurture musical talent among students through mentorship and structured training in music. The leadership lecture series, organised by the Global Schools Group, included the mentor's address, interactive sessions, and hands-on music workshops.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MITHOON THIPPESHA,** S/o. THIPPESHA R, Residing at 1640,1st Main Road, Ramamohanapuram, Srirampuram, Bangalore-560021, **MITHOON.T** and **MITHOON THIPPESHA.** both the names are one and the same, I have to change my name from **MITHOON.T** to **MITHOON THIPPESHA,** Vide affidavit dated 19.07.2025 sworn before Notary : Manohar Jeerige, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) LAKSHMI DEVI BORRA, residing at No. 874, ITI Layout, Vijinapura, Dooravaninagar Post, Bengaluru 560016, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) LAKSHMI DEVI BORRA** to **(NEW NAME)LAKSHMI DEVI** vide affidavit dated 18.07.2025 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, B.A., LLB, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K SUVARNA KUMARI,** is legally wedded spouse of, No.6251222, Ex Late Hav, Muthu Krishna Naidu, residing at No15, 2nd Cross, Subhedar Palya, Yeswanthpura, Bangalore-560022, have changed my name from **K SUVARNA KUMARI** to **K SWARNA,** vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2025 before Notary **S.Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **V.K. VARUN KUMAR** S/o Krishnappa, age 37 years, R/at Vaddanahalli Village and post, Bukkapattana Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **NIHAL GOWDA V** to **NAVANEETH BHARATH V S**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **NAVANEETH BHARATH V S** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th July 2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **M RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **USHA. S**, Daughter of Late Srinivas, Aged about 46 years, presently residing at C/o. Anil Kumar D.K., No. 70, Devarachikkanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 076, do hereby declare that, my correct name is **USHA. S,** as correctly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card and my PAN Card, wherein my name is correctly recorded as **USHA. S,** and my surname is mentioned as **Srinivas.** However in my Passport, my surname has been incorrectly recorded as **Anil Kumar** instead of **Srinivas**. Vide affidavit dated 19.07.2025 sworn to before Ravi Kumar .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHINTHAN UPADHYA, S/o. Girish Padmanabha Upadhya, Residing at No. 108, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, 7th Main, Srinivasanagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bengaluru -560050,**
have changed my name to
CHINTHAN GIRISH UPADHYA
vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2025
before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (Old name) AFOROJ W/o Irfan, Residing at No.18, Q No. 4th Street, 1st Cross, Bharathinagar, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my name from (old name)
AFOROJ to (new name)
I AFROZ vide affidavit dated 19-07-2025 sworn before notary Sumithra N. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I,RACHANA UMESH W/o Umesha. H.N aged about 46 years Residing at No.65, Rachane, 3rd Cross, Karnataka Layout, 2nd Stage, Basaveswaranagar, Bengaluru-560079, declare that I had change my name from **RACHANA UMESHA** (Old Name) to **RACHANA UMESH** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 18-6-2025 sworn before notary Ratna.N, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **RACHANA UMESH** for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BINDU VINOD**, spouse of 746877-K, **Sergeant (Retd) VINOD P V**, resident of, B Hive, 93/B, Navy Layout, Behind Kirloskar Layout, Near Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara-PO, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 090 have changed my Name from **BINDU VINOD** to **BINDU P V** vide Affidavit – **Sl. No. 374 Page 72 Vol. 05** dated **18-07-2025**, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURAJ KUMAR PRADHAN** aged about 35 years, transgender child of Sahadev Pradhan, residing at Room #3, 1st Floor Nest View, Meshtri Palaya Jakkur, Hebbal, Bengaluru 560064, Karnataka State, have changed my name to **SURU SONAL PRADHAN,** vide affidavit dated: 18.07.2025 before Notary **Gangaraju B.N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRAGNA S P**, D/o Parameswarappa aged about 19years, R/at No.2, 2nd Cross, Omshakthi Layout, Thambuchettipalya, Krishnarajapuram Post, Bengaluru-560036. In my passport My Father's name mentioned as **PARAMESH SAJJALU BHEEMAREDDY**, in Aadhar and school records my father's name mentioned as **S B PARAMESWARAPPA**. Herewith Declaring that both the above names belong and refers to one & the same i.e, my father only and correct name is **S B PARAMESWARAPPA** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 17/07/2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Gangaraju BN, RT Nagar, Bengaluru-560032.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ASHOKA CHANDRA, aged 54 years, S/o. Late Chandru Shetty V.C, Resident of No. C 79, 4th Cross, N S Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Near Anjaneya Temple Bengaluru -560076, Karnataka,
have changed my name to
ASHOK SHETTY
vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2025
before notary H.G. PADMANABHA RAO, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VARIJANATHAN, aged 70 years, W/o. Ranganathan N, Resident of No. 28, 33rd Main, 7th Block, BHCS Layout, Banagirinagara, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru -560085, Karnataka,
have changed my name to
VARIJA
vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2025
before notary H.G. PADMANABHA RAO, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARI GOVIND RAWULWAR Date of Birth: 09.08.1976, S/O Guruvaiah Rawulwar, presently residing at Flat No A307 Sai Sunshine Apartment, 9th Cross, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560037, have changed my name from **HARI GOVIND RAWUL** to **HARI GOVIND RAWULWAR,** vide affidavit dated 18/7/2025 sworn to before K.V.Jagannath Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARAT PAREEK**, son of **Mr. Umesh Pareek,** aged 31 years, residing at : # 203, Ansal Krsna 1, Adugodi Road, Hosur Road, Koramangala, BANGALORE-560030, for the change of name from **BHARAT UMESH PAREEK/ BHARAT U PAREEK** to **BHARAT PAREEK** Vide affidavit dated: 19/7/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DINESH G,** S/o Gopal D, No U-50/7, 7TH Cross, Near 2nd Railway Gate, K P Agrahara, Magadi Road, PO: Magadi Road, DIST: Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560023. have changed my name From **KISHORE G** (Old Name), shall henceforth be known as **DINESH G** vide Affidavit Dated 19.07.2025 Sworn Before Notary: M K Devaki.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARAT GOWDA**, S/o Hanamagoud Police Patil, aged 30 years, R/at Ward No.2, Near Old Bus Stand, Mangalore Village & Post, Yelburga Taluk, Koppal District-583 230 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUDUKANAGOUD** to **BHARAT GOWDA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **BHARAT GOWDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21st February 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K. RAMEGOWDA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **M. MANI**, S/o. Manoramani, aged about 64 years, residing at No. 4/1, 1st Cross, Markandeshwara Nagara, Binnypet, Bengaluru-560023, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **M. VEDIYAPPAN** to **M. MANI,** vide affidavit dated 17.07.2025, sworn to before Ramachandrappa .C, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

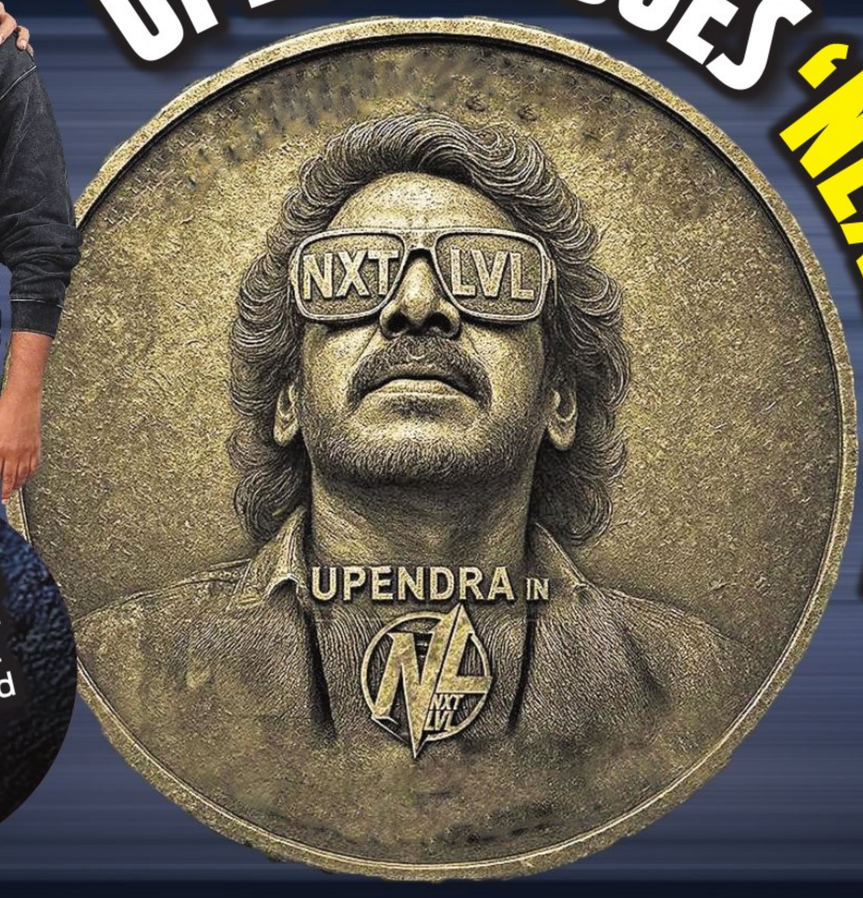
CHANGE OF NAME
I, MANJEET KAUR, W/o. Gurpreet Singh, Residing at No. 89, 17th 'B' Main, 100 Feet Road, HAL 2nd 'A' Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560038,
have changed my name to
MANJIT KAUR
vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2025
before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANJUNATH HARINDRAL,** S/o Siddanna, R/at No. 12, 5th Cross, 14th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Opp. Yash Timber, Bangalore, hereby declare that my names **MANJUNATH & MANJUNATH HARINDRAL** are one and the same names which belongs to myself only. In future I use my name as **MANJUNATH HARINDRAL** only. Vide affidavit dated: 15-07-2025, sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I,"B Dhruvan" Son of B K Balasubramaniam, aged about 18 years, currently residing at no 31, Laxmi Nivas, 9th main Malleshpalya, Bengaluru 560075 and Permanent Resident of 43 Rajarajeshwari Nilaya, 1" main C cross, near Adarsha Water tank, Vignan nagar. Bengaluru North, PO Marathahalli, Colony Bengaluru - 560037, have changed my name from **"B Divyatej"** to **"B Dhruvan",** vide affidavit dated 11/7/2025 sworn to before Sumithra.N Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

UPENDRA GOES 'NEXT LEVEL'

The Real Star joins hands with Tarun Shivappa for a Pan-India project directed by Aravind Kaushik



A SHARADHAA

EVEN as actor Upendra juggles projects like *Bhargava*, the much-anticipated *Coolie*, and a Telugu film alongside Ram Pothineni, the Real Star shows no signs of slowing down. The actor-director, known for his genre-defying storytelling, is all set to push the envelope once again. This time, he teams up with producer Tarun Shivappa for an interesting venture titled *Next Level*.

Speaking exclusively to us, Tarun Shivappa shared, "This will be the first pan-India film under our banner, Tarun Studios. We wanted to make something big, and who better than Upendra to take it to the next level?"

The film will be directed by Aravind Kaushik, the filmmaker behind *Tuglaq*, *Huliraaya*, and *Shradula*. What makes this collaboration exciting is the return to a familiar yet evolved space. "Aravind has penned a story that truly echoes the kind of films Upendra became a cult icon for — think *A*, *Upendra*," said Tarun. "It's intense, philosophical, and edgy, but also totally relatable for today's generation. We're looking at a complete Upendra-style entertainer, but with fresh visual language."

The film will feature two heroines and, in true pan-India style, a diverse ensemble cast from across multiple industries. Tarun added, "The casting will be a mix of talent from different languages, and something big and very unique is coming together."

As for the technical crew, Anup Kattukaran has been roped in as the cinematographer. The music director has yet to be finalised, but the team is exploring options that match the film's scale and style. The script, we hear, is locked, and the film is set to go on floors soon.

"The story demands a lot of VFX and technical finesse. We're making sure everything is meticulously planned before we go to shoot," said Tarun Shivappa.

I'VE DELIVERED AN INTENSE AND ISOLATING PERFORMANCE IN *GADADHARI HANUMAN*: RAVIKIRAN

CE FEATURES

GADADHARI HANUMAN appears poised to travel its own path—blending mythology, fantasy, horror, and emotion in equal measure. The recently released teaser for the bilingual film (Kannada and Telugu) offers a peek into a world where divine power collides with supernatural darkness.

Directed by Rohit Kolli and backed by producers Basavaraj Hurakadli and Renuka Prasad KR under the Virabh Studios banner, the film marks actor Ravikiran's third outing after *Tarakasura* and *Kailasa*.

From the very first frame, the teaser plunges the viewer into a visually extravagant world, where ancient terrains meet intense confrontations, and a lone warrior steps into the fire of battle. Sweeping aerial shots, dusky landscapes, and a tone soaked in mysticism give *Gadadhari Hanuman* a distinct identity. The story hints at a divine confrontation, blending devotion with action-driven spectacle.

"This is my most intense and isolating performance yet," says Ravikiran. "Especially during the climax, where I'm performing alone, surrounded only by VFX. I was facing the camera with nothing but blue screens and imagined chaos. I'm the only actor in that final sequence—it's just me and the CG world around me. It was exhilarating and challenging."

The film follows a dual-genre structure, starting with elements of horror-comedy and evolving into a spiritual and action-packed narrative in the second half.

"The first half is quirky and entertaining, but the second half takes a divine turn. The title '*Gadadhari Hanuman*' itself is symbolic—there's always a higher power watching over us, protecting us," Ravikiran explains.

Post Tarakasura, Ravikiran feels that every project has added a new layer to his evolution. "My second film, Kailasa, was light and fun. But this one brings everything—mythology, fantasy, thrills, and horror. There's so much packed into this film. It's a genre blend that's not often attempted in Kannada cinema," he adds.

The teaser is powered by high-end VFX, and Ravikiran doesn't shy away from talking about the hurdles they faced. "VFX is both thrilling and frustrating. We had to change companies twice. There's still a gap in our access to top-notch CG resources here. We don't have the correct infrastructure yet, but we're getting there."

With music by Judah Sandy, the film's cinematography is by Arun Gowda and editing by CN Kishore.

Newcomer Harshitha marks her debut in the film, which also stars Kalyan Krishna, Ramesh Pandit, Sunanda Kalburgi, Nagesh Maiyya, Shivappa, Arjun, Bhishma, and Lokesh.

Shot across spiritual and historic locations like Hampi, Gangavati, Anjanadri, and Kittur, the film draws from the cultural and mythic fabric of Karnataka, rooting its fantasy in familiar divinity.

With the film complete and in its final stages of post-production, the team is now looking for a release date.

"Since it's a bilingual, we're planning to release it simultaneously in both languages in the last week of August or by September," Ravikiran confirms.

Hrithika Srinivas saddles up for a dual-shaded role in Kiranraj's *Jockey 42*

CE FEATURES

KIRAN RAJ'S upcoming action-drama *Jockey 42*, directed by Guruthej Shetty will have Hrithika Srinivas as the female lead. The film, about jockeys, is currently galloping through its Bengaluru schedule, and promises to bring fresh energy to the racetrack genre.

Hrithika's role in the film carries a blend of contrasts, modern sensibilities paired with a rooted, homely appeal. Known for her performance in Udala, Hrithika is currently wrapping up a Telugu project and is expected to join the *Jockey 42* team shortly. "It's a character that holds its ground in a high-octane, male-dominated backdrop. There's strength in her simplicity and spark in her modernity," says a source close to the team.

Set against the fast-paced backdrop of horse racing, *Jockey 42* is produced by Bharati Satyanarayan under the Golden Gate Studios banner. The film aims to explore the intensity behind the sport, layered with drama and suspense. Vinod Yajamanya, known for his hit compositions in Telugu and Tamil cinema, is on board as the music director, and the film is expected to feature an ensemble cast that has actors from Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu industries.

Vinod Prabhakar wraps up shooting for *Balaramana Dinagalu*

CE FEATURES

RIDING high on the success of *Maadeva*, which recently completed a strong 50-day run at the box office, Vinod Prabhakar, has now completed filming for his next project, *Balaramana Dinagalu*.

Directed by KM Chaitanya, the man behind Aa Dinagalu, this new venture unfolds in the gritty yet nostalgic landscape of the 1980s. Shot across picturesque and diverse locales like Bengaluru, Mysore, Shivamogga, and Sakaleshpur, the team wrapped up the filming over a span of 80 days. Post-production is set to begin soon, promising a film that blends period drama with emotional depth.

Produced under the Padmavati Films banner by Padmavati Jayaram and Shreyas, *Balaramana Dinagalu* marks their debut into Kannada cinema production. The film pairs Vinod with Priya Anand, bringing a fresh on-screen dynamic. Adding to the ensemble are powerhouse performers Atul Kulkarni and Ashish Vidyarthi, alongside Bigg Boss fame Vinay Gowda and a host of familiar faces from Kannada and other film industries.

One of the most exciting aspects of this project is the music, which is composed by the acclaimed Santhosh Narayanan, who is making his Kannada debut with *Balaramana Dinagalu*. The film has cinematography by Venu.

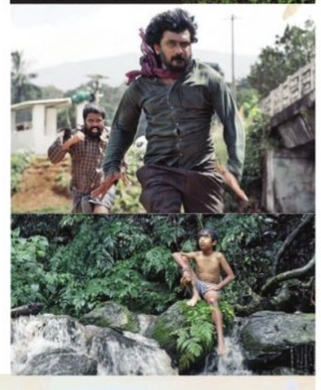
Eltuu Muthaa release set for August

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Raa Surya confirmed that *Eltuu Muthaa* is set to hit the theatres on August 1. He has also written the dialogues for the film. *Eltuu Muthaa* will be releasing alongside the Pruthvi Ambaar-starrer Kothalawadi. The film brings to life a haunting tale set in the misty heart of Coorg. Inspired by real events that left a deep impact on the filmmaker during his early years, the story delves into the lives of Eltuu and Muthaa—two pivotal characters surrounded by the eerie tradition of death drummers. The film's dialogues are co-written by Shaurya Pratap.

Actor Shaurya Pratap, making his debut as Muthaa, shared that his involvement with the film began right from the writing stage. He expressed pride in the journey so far, noting that the positive response to the teaser, songs, and now the trailer has generated strong momentum ahead of the film's release. Ruhan Arya who plays a role in the film and also serves as an executive producer. The music for the film has been composed by Prasanna Keshav. The ensemble cast features Priyanka Malali as the female lead, along with Cockroach Sudhi, Naveen D Padil, and Yamuna Srinidhi in prominent roles. Distributed by Sridhar, *Eltuu Muthaa* also has Pavindra Ponnappa as a co-producer.

A still from the film



Manuranjan with team Eltuu Muthaa